

JUN 24 1998

REFLECTOR

Volume 164 / Number 25

Statewide Edition

June 24, 1998

this week's news

- ▶ Rover Church destroyed by fire. — Page 2
- ▶ Kingston volunteers injured in missions accident. — Page 3
- ▶ Tennesseans across the state are supporting Tennessee's four partnerships. See 'The Macedonian Call.' — Pages 7-10

No paper next week

BRENTWOOD — There will not be a *Baptist and Reflector* dated July 1 due to the Fourth of July holiday that week.

The paper will resume publication with the July 8 issue.

The staff of the *Baptist and Reflector* wishes everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July! *B&R*

MOVING? Cut out and mail address label and new address to *Baptist and Reflector*, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

*****5-DIGIT 37203
#01499375# REG
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE ST. STE. 400
NASHVILLE TN 37203-5628

From Christian Growth Development Group

Specialists to take training to each association

By Lonnie Wilkey
Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — Tennessee Baptists have had a long tradition of quality Sunday School/Discipleship Training events which have involved thousands of church leaders each year and the future will be no exception, says Tim Holcomb, leader of the TBC Executive Board's Christian Growth Development group.

"Standing on the shoulders of these past successes, the Christian Growth Development group has initialized a philosophy to take training as close as possible to our churches," Holcomb said.

Between now and the year 2000 the CGD group will conduct a Sunday School/Discipleship event in each of the 67 associations in the state, he said.

The strategy for conducting a leader training event in every association by 2000 is built around the three grand divisions of the state. The strategy will require three years to complete, Holcomb said.

The strategy involves three components: associational training events called

"Church Worker's Tune Up," Sunday School revivals called "The Winning Spirit," and regional events called "Mapping It Out," and small church tours called "Tool Time" for small church workers.

The following strategy is planned for 1998, Holcomb said.

There will be 14 "Church Worker's Tune Up" meetings in the west region. These meetings are planned in collaboration with directors of missions and lay leadership. In each association, depending on the number and size of churches, there will be anywhere from 10 to 30 two-hour conferences offered, Holcomb said.

In the central region this year will be "The Winning Spirit" Sunday School revivals. These meetings will be one-night, large group meetings meant to inspire and encourage Sunday School leadership, Holcomb said.

As part of these meetings, SS teachers from various churches will be recognized for their faithfulness and service. The SS

revival also will feature a popular Christian speaker who will equip leadership for future service.

Regional "Mapping It Out" events are the models for the east region. There will be five sites for regional training in this first phase of the strategy, Holcomb said.

Again, he stressed, each of those meetings will be planned in coordination with the respective director of missions and associational leadership.

This past spring "Tool Time," the small church tours, was initiated. Eight sites were used to equip small church leadership in Sunday School, Discipleship, and Media Library, Holcomb said.

He noted the different components will rotate to other regions in 1999 and 2000.

"By the year 2000, as each year's events are planned and implemented, every association will have had a local training event in their association," Holcomb emphasized.

"This continual emphasis on training stands on the long Tennessee tradition of training workers and adds to that tradition the value of taking that training as close to the people as possible," he said. *B&R*



HOLCOMB

Memphis congregation reaches apartment dwellers

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — Every Saturday afternoon members of Monument of Love Church gather at an apartment complex located in the south central part of this sprawling city.

Despite being located near the frenzy of traffic and commerce on Lamar Avenue and Interstate 240, the setting seems to be a pocket of peace in the city.

The complex, Prescott Place, is unlike what many Americans refer to as "the projects" or housing for people who receive government assistance. Instead of "projects" which include numerous identical brick buildings, these apartments appear like many other multi-housing dwellings.

One reason for the upscale atmosphere of the complex is the management company, the Leddic Corporation, reported Lawrence Hudson, pastor, Monument of Love Church.

The company takes a personal interest in its residents, he said. One measure of this interest is its work with the church. After meeting with

church and association leaders, the company completed construction on an unfinished room and furnished it for church-directed meetings at the complex.

In that room, named the Hope Center by the church, children and teens gather every Saturday to study the Bible with members of the church.

Monument of Love Church has another partner in the Hope Center besides the management company. Kirby Woods Church helps fund and support the effort, said Hudson.

The purpose of the Hope Center is spelled out in its name, said Hudson. The center is to provide hope, but also HOPE — Helping Others Prepare Eternally.

Reaching the poor
James Herron, minister of



PORTRAYING a biblical character during a recent Saturday session for children and youth at the Hope Center is James Herron.

missions at Monument of Love and director of the Hope Center, moves around while teaching on a recent Saturday. He acts out the response of a Bible character as he teaches.

This helps these youngsters understand the Bible, Herron explained, because they have little Bible knowledge.

The number of children who attend the Saturday activity is small, said Herron. But a few

have been attending regularly and it's clear they are retaining Bible knowledge, he added.

Herron, who is a social worker, and Donna Taylor of the church who assists Herron, are committed to the Hope Center's ministry. Recently Taylor, who works for a food distribution company, rearranged her work schedule to Atlanta to return in time for — See Memphis, page 6

about your newsjournal

- Lonnie Wilkey, interim editor
 - **Subscribe to the Baptist and Reflector** for one year and receive 48 copies. Family or individual subscription — \$8.00; clubs of 10 or more subscriptions — \$7.25; church (more than 50 percent of families) — \$6.50.
 - **To contribute a news item, call, write, or e-mail** Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis, assistant editor
 - **To advertise** — Lonnie Wilkey
 - **For billing and subscription data questions** — Betty Williams, bookkeeper
 - **For information about trial subscription plan for church or association edition** — Lonnie Wilkey, Connie Davis, or Susie Edwards, administrative secretary
 - **For information about local church edition** — the Editor, or Mary Nimmo, church pages coordinator
 - **For production answers** — Lonnie Wilkey or Connie Davis
 - **Publisher** — Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board
 - **Board of directors:** Bill Northcott, chairman; Paul Medley, vice chairman; Charles Anderson, Hinton Climer, Elmer Crosby, Reed Dixon, Don Edwards, Frank Hawkins, Herbert Higdon, John Holland, Kenneth Hubbard, Jewell Jennings, Pat Landrum, Mattie Mullins, Ray Newcomb, Doug Sager, Michael Smith, Bettye Summers, and Ambers Wilson
 - **Office** — Baptist and Reflector, 5001 Maryland Way, Brentwood, TN, 37027
- Mailing address — P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN, 37024
- Phone — (615) 371-2003
 FAX — (615) 371-2080
 E-mail — 70420.63@CompuServe.com
- **Membership** — Southern Baptist Press Association
 - **Postmaster** — Periodical postage paid at Brentwood and at additional mailing office. (USPS 041-780) POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Baptist and Reflector, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.
 - **Frequency of issue** — The paper is published weekly except for the weeks of Christmas, New Year's, Fourth of July, and fourth week of August.

Printed on recycled paper

Lost 85-year-old building, three-year-old addition

Lightning strike, fire destroys Rover Church

For Baptist and Reflector

ROVER — Lightning struck the steeple of Rover Church here at about 4:30 a.m. June 14. A resulting fire destroyed the church.

Although the fire department responded quickly, the building and its contents were destroyed, reported Ronnie Grooms, pastor.

The parsonage which is located close to the church was not damaged.

The church building included an 85-year-old section and an addition which was built about three years old. The members still owe about \$49,000 on the addition, reported Grooms.

The church was insured but personal items belonging to

Grooms and his family in the building weren't insured, he added. The insurance company is still determining whether his library will be covered.

His library included gifts from Charles Conley, retired director of missions, Sequatchie Valley Association. Conley gave his study materials to Grooms when he retired.

Items belonging to his family were stored in the church because of a lack of storage space in the parsonage, said Grooms.

The congregation of Rover Church met a few hours after the fire at Community High School in Unionsville. They plan to continue to meet there on Sunday mornings and on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at the local St. Paul

Methodist Church.

The fire is not the first storm-related damaged the church has suffered this spring. Several weeks ago, lightning struck a transformer on the street and destroyed a computer, VCR, and TV belonging to the Groomses.

However, the pastor can see how God has protected and led throughout the experience.

The wind was blowing away from the parsonage so it didn't catch fire, said Grooms. The family was awakened by the lightning strike so they could move vehicles parked close to the church.

Another sign of God's protection, said Grooms, is the fact that the lightning didn't strike a few hours later during church activities or that night,

when many children would have been attending the first session of the church's Vacation Bible School.

A final factor in the loss is the fact that the congregation was overflowing its space and would need more space soon, said Grooms.

Maybe God knew that it would be hard to tear down the present building or add onto it, he said.

Grooms asked Tennessee Baptists to pray for his daughters, 7 and 11 years old, who are very frightened, and for the congregation.

He concluded, "We may be down, but we're not out. We serve a mighty God."

For more information on recovery efforts, people can call Grooms at (931) 294-5278. B&R

Building program turns into prolonged revival in Pulaski

For Baptist and Reflector

PULASKI — When the congregation of Wales Church near here voted to enter into a building program last July, they had no idea that they were about to enter into a prolonged revival as well.

At the time the church was not quite receiving 100 percent of its budget requirements and some members were concerned about how the project would be funded.

In addition, there was some opposition to including the cost of a baptistry in the plan.

The pastor (Charles Ingram) and the building committee made some recommendations for adjustments to the budget (no cuts were made in Cooperative Program giving, missions, or outreach ministries) and the church voted almost unanimously to adopt the building program, including the baptistry, Ingram said. A low interest loan was secured from the Tennessee Baptist Foundation. What happened next was beyond anyone's imagination, Ingram noted.

James Bomar, a deacon and self-employed metal fabricator, agreed to serve as contractor for the church. For several

months Saturdays were "work-at-church" days for many of the men and women as well. Slowly, week by week, the new facility began to take shape, Ingram said.

"In fact, due to the careful oversight of Bomar and others in the church, along with the generosity of the whole congregation, the original part of the structure was extensively remodeled along with the new construction — and no additional money had to be borrowed.

What was happening within the church was even more amazing, Ingram reported. "The congregation assumed a spirit of family and togetherness that was previously unknown. Everyone felt like they were a part of the church and took a part," Ingram said.

As a result, Sunday School attendance, which had been around 30 to 40, has increased to an average of around 70. Worship attendance has not been below 100 since January and on Easter Sunday the church had an all-time record attendance of 212. The weekly offering is now running at ap-



PASTOR CHARLES INGRAM, far left, of Wales Church talks with the first three members to be baptized in the church's new baptistry, from left, Bill McGrew, Paulette Pinkelton, and Aubrey Archer.

proximately 140 percent of budget requirements. Since last July the church has added 39 new members, including 25 by baptism.

"I have never seen a church make such a dramatic turnaround overnight. It just goes to show what can happen when people are willing to step out on faith — God will take care of the rest," said Ingram, who has been a pastor for 22 years. ■



Lanese Dockery leads ministers wives

Lanese Dockery, second from right, wife of Union University President David Dockery, is the new president of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference. Officers were elected during the annual luncheon for ministers' wives June 9 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. Other officers, from left, include Shirley Lewis, Cumming, Ga., corresponding secretary; Mary Cox, Lawrenceville, Ga., vice president; Dockery; and Diane Newell, Jacksonville, Fla., recording secretary/treasurer. — Photo by Debbie Moore

Carson-Newman hosts conference

For Baptist and Reflector

JEFFERSON CITY — The Norton Institute for Congregational Health at Carson-Newman College will host the 1998 Ministers' Conference, "A Time to Grow" July 20-22.

Formerly known as the East Tennessee Baptist Preachers' School, the three-day event offers seven speakers and a variety of topics. Roy Honeycutt, chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will focus on a winter Bible study preview of the book of Joshua.

For more information or to register, call the C-N church relations office at (423) 471-3218. ■

Seven Kingston volunteers injured in construction accident

By Marcia Knox
For Baptist and Reflector

SALEM, Mo. — "Run the prayerline, the trusses have fallen," said the person on the other end of the phone.

That was the first indication to Sandy Bowers, secretary at New Harmony Church here, that there had been a construction accident June 15 at the church's new building site.

Seven members of First Church, Kingston, including Pastor Roy Graves, were injured "when the trusses fell like dominos on top of the new fellowship hall" for New Harmony Church.

When the accident happened, 10 workers were on the 81-foot-long trusses. They fell nearly two stories to the

ground. Seven were injured and three received only bruises. In addition to the Kingston crew, there were workers from New Harmony Church in the area as well.

The injured were part of a construction team, made up of 80 people from First Church, Kingston and five from a church in Lusby, Md.

Those injured in addition to Graves were Jody McCloud, George Brummitt, Jack Woodall, Earl Thacker, Jerry Christian, and Larry Billings. They were treated and released at a local hospital with various injuries from dislocated shoulders, sprained and broken ankles, cracked ribs, broken arms, and stitches. Woodall underwent surgery at a hospital in Rolla, Mo., for a com-

pound fracture of the right arm and flew home to Kingston June 16. Three others (Thacker, McCloud, and Brummitt) flew back to Kingston on June 17 following a return trip to the Salem hospital.

"It was a miracle from God that nobody was more seriously hurt or killed," Bowers said.

"The presence of the Lord was felt after the accident at the work site. People prayed when the ambulances arrived and left with the injured."

"A prayer vigil began after the ambulances left," she said, noting that work continued on another part of the building after the accident.

First Church, Kingston, has been on mission trips similar to this one for 14 years, Graves

said. He noted the church gathers information about mission needs and prays about those needs.

"New Harmony Church's construction was the need for this summer," he said.

The Kingston group traveled in vans to Salem and arrived June 12. Following the accident, they continued their work through June 19.

"We're banged up a little bit," Graves said, noting those injured "were finding new sore spots. We're not focusing on the accident," he said.

Even though the trusses and scaffolding will have to be rebuilt, the Kingston team is using the incident to motivate their workers. "We're not dwelling on the accident, but on the providence of God,"



Graves said.

Graves said the church looks forward each year to the mission trip and they will "not let anything like this keep us from going."

This year's volunteer team was made up of men, women, and teenagers. The five volunteers from Lusby, Md., were from a church Kingston members had helped in years past.

The work site was two miles from the previous site of New Harmony Church which was destroyed by fire Jan. 14. ■

Wade, Nancy Watts thank Southern Baptists for prayers at SBC meeting

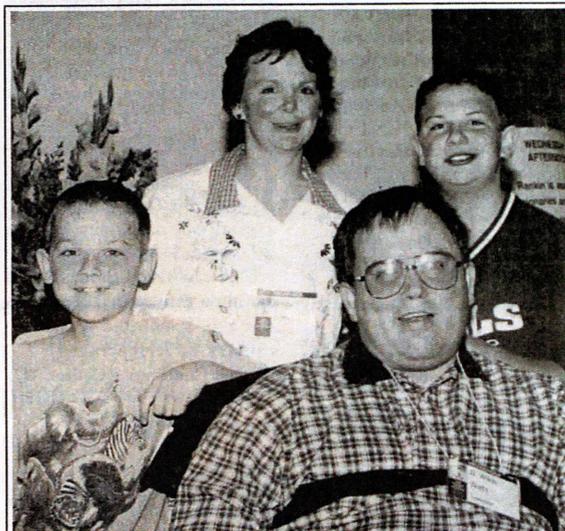
By Mark Kelly
For Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Tennessee Wade Watts, who lingered in a coma for a year after he was injured in a 1996 head-on car wreck in Peru, said he did not regret going to Peru as a missionary and asked Southern Baptists assembled in Salt Lake City's Salt Palace Convention Center June 10 to join him in going back to South America as missionaries.

Strapped upright in a wheelchair, his speech still slurred by his injuries, Watts nonetheless represented a miracle to thousands of Southern Baptists around the world who have prayed for him and his family in the 28 months since the accident.

The February 1996 head-on collision on a winding mountain road in Peru left Watts and his 9-year-old son, Marcus, in comas. Watts' wife, Nancy, suffered fractures in her hand, face and back. A second son, 7-year-old Joshua, received a broken ankle. Five days later, after doctors were able to stabilize Marcus for transport, he was airlifted to Memphis. Watts joined his son there eight days later.

Doctors doubted Watts and



RELAXING IN Salt Lake City were the Watts family, from left, Joshua, Nancy, Wade, and Marcus.

his son ever would emerge from his comas, and, if they did, were not expected to regain physical function.

Nine months later, however, Marcus had made a miraculous recovery, completing the fourth grade in a Memphis school and even being released from physical therapy. Six months later, Watts himself returned home,

able to feed himself and speak. The family lives in a house provided by Highland Heights Church, Memphis.

The couple joined IMB President Jerry Rankin and Avery Willis, the agency's senior vice president for overseas services, on the convention center platform June 10 as the International Mission Board appoint-

ed 38 new missionaries for overseas service.

"Wade, I want to ask you, are you sorry you went as a missionary to Peru?" Willis asked the missionary.

Watts replied: "No. I know that I was in God's will. I'm not sorry."

Nancy Watts thanked Southern Baptists for their continued prayers over the past two years.

"This is such a wonderful opportunity for us as a family to be able to say to so many Southern Baptists that are here this evening that we truly appreciate your prayers for us during the past two years and four months," she said.

"It has meant so much to our family, especially myself. It has given me lots of encouragement and strength from God knowing that so many Southern Baptists from all over the world have been praying for us."

One of the first things Watts said after he regained his ability to speak was, "I plan to go back to Peru." His wife echoed that sentiment from the SBC platform. "... We're looking forward to the day we'll be able to go back and serve you once again overseas." ■

Watts asked Southern Baptists to continue praying.

"First, I would ask that you pray that I would walk," he said to messengers. "Second, I would ask that many of you would join us in going back to South America."

Rankin pledged Southern Baptists will continue to pray and told assembled messengers many of them should consider Watts' appeal to join the work in Latin America.

"Wade and Nancy, we're grateful you could be here and see a small representation of the millions of Southern Baptists that will continue to pray for you that you will walk and, in God's providence, may some day go back to Peru," Rankin said. "That will be a while yet, but I know your hearts are blessed to know we have three missionary couples being appointed tonight who have responded to God's call to Latin America.

"And we trust that many who are here tonight will respond to that appeal to go in your place to share the light of the Gospel to people who are in darkness," he said.

More than 160 people made commitments to career missionary service overseas at the conclusion of the service. ■

Tennessee Baptists give \$7,298,697

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts surpass \$100 million goal

Baptist Press

RICHMOND — For the first time since 1981, Southern Baptists surpassed their goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions. When the books closed May 31, the 1997 offering totaled \$100,064,318.10.

Tennessee Baptists gave \$7,298,697 to the 1996-97 Lottie Moon offering.

The \$7 million increase from 1996 was the second-largest in history and helped

produce the offering's fifth straight record year. The increase alone was greater than any single Lottie Moon offering before 1960.

The strong showing "indicates Southern Baptists' heart for reaching the lost and being on mission with God," said Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board. The entire offering will support the board's overseas budget.

"Exceeding \$100 million is a reflection of God's faithfulness to provide the re-

sources needed to reach our world with the saving message of Jesus Christ," he said.

The receipts will enable the board to use \$1.45 million for "a long-overdue salary increase across the board to missionary personnel" and provide them with \$2.5 million for "badly needed capital for strategic needs," Rankin added.

"We are absolutely ecstatic we did go over the \$100 million goal," said Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's

Missionary Union, the agency which founded the offering 110 years ago. "We don't anticipate ever falling below \$100 million again."

The offering, generally collected in churches during December, will fund nearly half (47 percent) of this year's budget of \$210.8 million. The rest will come from Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, and other income, such as investments and hunger and relief receipts. ■

Tennessean sparks Bolivia, Costa Rica mission efforts

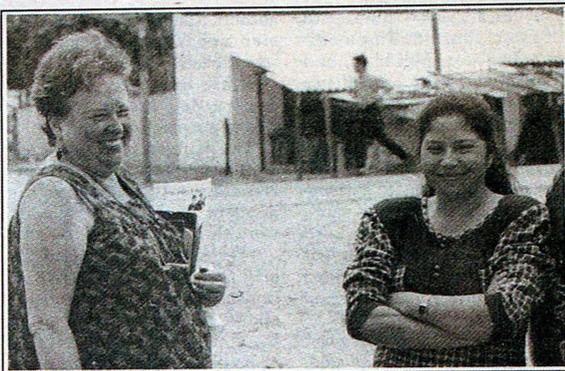
By Betty Poor
For Baptist and Reflector

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia — Tennessean Pat Stooksbury, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary, has a unique role in challenging Latin Americans she works with to send their own missionaries to other lands.

This missionary influence began in Costa Rica, where Pat served 14 years as national adviser of the woman's missionary union, editor of the Baptist paper, and counselor of the Baptist student center. One of the Baptist students she worked with was Anne Marie Pinnock, who now serves as Costa Rica's first international missionary in Guyana.

"She was one of my girls," said Stooksbury, who became a Christian at age 8 and was baptized at Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville. "I worked with her in the San Pedro Baptist Church and trained her in women's work."

Stooksbury, a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, transferred to Bolivia in 1990 where she works with women's ministry promotion and now is also concentrating on discipleship. She serves on Bolivia's board of evangelism and missions and as a member of the executive committee of the Bolivia Baptist



TENNESSEAN PAT STOOKSBURY, left, chats with Hilda Mojica, promoter of the prayer and missions ministry of 'Nueva Vida' (New Life) Baptist Church in El Torno, Bolivia.

tist Convention. "I've constantly put missions before them," she said.

"Look at Acts 1:8 ('...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth')," she challenged a group of Bolivian pastors. "Was that just written to 'gringos' (North Americans)?"

As they thought about it, Bolivian leaders couldn't get away from their own missionary responsibility. But they told Stooksbury they didn't have a missionary to send. Then in January, 1997, Ernesto Barboza gave his testimony at the Bolivian Baptist Convention, saying God was calling him to India. "OK, now you've

got a missionary. Let's support him," Stooksbury said to the Bolivian leaders.

They decided they would help him with \$400 a month from a united effort of the churches. Bolivian women have gotten together personal items for him and are planning to provide him with a complete clothing outfit.

At the Bolivian Baptist Convention Stooksbury put to use 1,000 missions promotional pins Tennessee Baptists had given her during her 1994 furlough.

She made a poster and set out a bank. She gave a pin to every Baptist who would give an offering, promise to pray for Ernesto, and wear the pin to remind them to pray. She

raised \$400 for his support during that meeting.

In addition to Ernesto, a young man who has been in an *Experiencing God* discipleship group Pat leads has gone for two months to distribute Bibles in a Muslim country, winding up, also, in India. Bolivian Baptists are also growing in their concern for home missions. "We now have six home missionaries," Stooksbury said. The Bolivian home mission offering has grown from about \$10,000 to about \$30,000. "God is really opening their eyes to what missions is all about."

About 65 or 70 Bolivian women go on home mission trips every year now, Stooksbury said. They stay a week, visiting in the mornings, have Vacation Bible School in the afternoons, and help with evangelistic services at night.

"They work and save their money to go on mission trips," said Stooksbury, whose own missionary story began even before she was born. When her mother was expecting her, she heard a missionary speak and prayed that God would someday call her child, who was yet to be born, to be a missionary.

God answered Stooksbury's mother's prayer in 1976 when she was appointed as a missionary at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. ■



TBF trustees set up scholarship fund for students

For Baptist and Reflector

BRENTWOOD — During their recent board meeting, trustees of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation established a scholarship fund to assist Tennessee Baptist students. Scholarships currently awarded through the foundation come from designated trusts.

Students who receive the scholarships from the new fund must attend a Tennessee Baptist college or Southern Baptist seminary.

The trustees voted to contribute up to \$100,000 from the Special Ministry Fund to establish the Scholarship Fund.

If an individual, church, or association contributes to the Scholarship Fund, the Foundation will match the gift. For example, if a person gives \$25 to the Scholarship Fund, the Foundation will give \$25 as well, making the total gift \$50. Gifts can be made as memorials.

Future scholarships from the new fund will be awarded by the Foundation's Scholarship Committee.

Each year scholarship requests increase, said W. L. "Bo" Childs, president of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.

"When interest rates are low it is difficult to have enough money to meet the requests.

"Your contributions will assist the Foundation as it tries to meet more and more needs of our Tennessee Baptist students seeking a higher education," he said. ■



CHILDS

Watauga Baptists dedicate Hale Community Ministries building

For Baptist and Reflector

ELIZABETHTON — Watauga Association Baptists recently held open house and a dedication service at their new Hale Community Ministries building here.

Groundbreaking for the new center was held in March 1997. Members from various churches in the association worked on the new building as did volunteers from the Carter County Work Camp in Roan Mountain, who did most of the actual construction, according to Director of Missions Ray Sorrells.

Also heavily involved in the project were retired DOM Bob Polk, HCM Director Becky Brummitt, secretary and receptionist Donna Proffitt and two senior adult men in the association — Woodrow Rhea of Powder Branch Church and John Smith of Union Church.

Twenty-seven churches in the association are giving extra monthly gifts to pay for the loan on the building, Sorrells reported.

Also, individuals and church groups have been giving to provide furnishings for the building which houses ministry to the needy in Elizabethton and Johnson County.

The building will house ministries such as food and clothing distribution, Big A Clubs, and day camp ministries as well as other children, youth, and adult activities.

"The building is a testimony to what can be accomplished as God's people catch a vision and work together," Sorrells said. ■



STAFFING Hale Community Ministries Center are Becky Brummitt, seated, director, and, from left, Jennifer Butz, Donna Proffitt, secretary, and Misty Atwell. Atwell and Butz are summer missionaries at the center.

Tennesseans earn degrees at Mid-America, Richmond seminaries

For Baptist and Reflector

Several Tennessee Baptist ministers were among recent graduates at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis.

In addition, five Tennesseans were among the 37 graduates of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.). It was the Richmond seminary's largest graduating class to date.

Graduates of Mid-America included: Associate of Divinity — Scott Frakes,

Lawrenceburg, church planter in Turlock, Calif.

Master of Arts in Religion and Education — Andrew Baird Brown, minister of youth and children, Westside Church, Halls; Greg Childress, minister of music/administration, Second Church, Millington; Jimmy Fox II, activities director, Leawood Church, Memphis

Master of Divinity — Chris Conlee, minister of young married couples, Bartlett Church, Bartlett; Jerry Dye Jr., visitation coordinator, bus director, and

children's church minister, First Church, Millington; John Michael Murray, youth minister, First Church, Dyersburg; David Powell, minister to young married, Bellevue Church, Cordova

Doctor of Philosophy — James Adams, pastor, New Hope Church, Dyer

Graduating from the Richmond seminary were Allan and Valerie Burton, both of Signal Mountain; Link Elmore, First Church, Knoxville; Bryan Irwin Sr. of Knoxville; and Sterling Severns of Hendersonville. ■

Don't take religious freedom for granted

By Lonnie Wilkey
Interim Editor

As Americans we are blessed to live in a land where we have many freedoms. Among those is freedom of religion.

Sometimes it appears we take that freedom for granted. News stories from other countries, however, remind us that religious persecution is a reality in many countries.

The upcoming Fourth of July holiday is a good time to remember that 222 years ago our forefathers made the decision to declare their independence from England. The decision was not made without cost. Many people lost their lives, but their courage and persistence paid off.

Since then countless men and women have lost their lives in wars to see that America continues to have the freedoms we have today.

Countless other Americans have served their country in the armed forces.

Americans today, especially those who

are 30 and older, undoubtedly know people who lost their lives or were severely injured, either during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. Many of them were relatives or very close friends.

Soon we will have a generation of people who will not have personal knowledge of the sacrifices made to secure our freedoms. Without personal knowledge an attitude of indifference likely will come. We cannot let that happen.

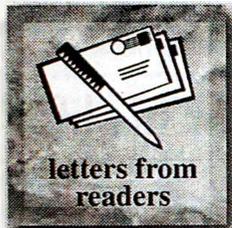
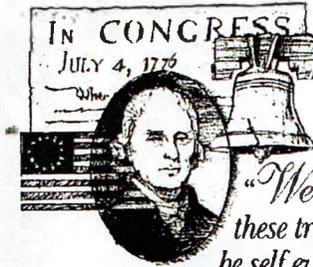
Many churches will have patriotic services centered around the Fourth of July holiday. These services are a time to re-

member our heritage and to instill in our children that we can have a patriotic service in church because God has blessed our nation and because men and women gave of their lives to ensure future generations would have that freedom.

A popular hymn that Sunday will probably be "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," which is number 634 in the 1991 edition of *The Baptist Hymnal*.

Many of us know by heart the first stanza. We should make an effort to remember the entire song, especially the final verse:

"Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, To thee we sing: Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!" Let that be our prayer. B&R



Grateful for BSU

A young man walked into the Middle Tennessee State University Baptist Student Union Center in Murfreesboro recently, and I could tell by the look on his face he was anxious about something. I asked if I could help, and he immediately replied, "I need to pray with someone. I want to become a Christian."

Needless to say, I was somewhat stunned. Never in my almost 19 years of campus ministry had anyone walked off the street and said that to me, especially with such a desperately sincere look on his face. Most student conversions take a lot more spiritual "labor in the fields."

I invited him into my office where we sat and talked. He told me of the impact of the recent deaths of two members of his family plus the school shootings and murder in Fayetteville. He felt God had used those events to make him realize his own mortality, how death could come so quickly to someone of his young age.

He also told hearing his grandmother pray for him by name. She did not know he was there. The experience grabbed his heart like nothing else before.

After listening to him and asking a few questions, I shared with him the beautiful simplicity of God's grace and hope through Christ. When I asked him if he was ready to

become a Christian, to receive God's forgiveness and become a follower of Christ, he eagerly agreed.

We prayed together and afterwards discussed the basics of Christian discipleship. More follow-up will continue.

Thank you, churches of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and Concord Association, for making it possible to have this BSU ministry at MTSU. God continues to bless.

Charles Nored
Murfreesboro 37130

Thankful for America

On July 4, 1776, there was signed in Philadelphia one of America's historic documents: the Declaration of Independence. This marked the birth of our nation, which under God, was destined for world leadership. The legitimate purpose of government since the founding of America has been to protect the lives, liberty, and property of its citizens. The price of liberty and freedom is never free.

It is obtained at a high cost of lives of America's military armed forces of almost a million during all wars that our nation has been involved in.

In spite of certain social ills, the United States has passed more social legislation and enacted more laws providing individual liberty than any other nation in the world. The fact about liberty is a history of limitations of government power, not the increase of it. The consecration of government power is what always precedes the diminishing of human liberties.

God has shown his blessing on every generation of Americans. What is great about America? America, in 222 years, has accomplished more than any other nation in histo-

ry. The patriotic hymn depicts the blessings of God of the purple mountain majesties, and the amber waves of grain. America's initiative and ingenuity are known around the world.

America also is a generous nation. It has accepted millions of immigrants and refugees. Through the decades she has opened her heart to the hungry at home and abroad.

We should pray for our leaders who occupy the highest offices in the nation. They make decisions that affect the future of our nation and of our freedom. May God bless all Americans and the United States of America.

Frank Stoffle
Seymour 37865

Disagrees with story

In reference to the story in the May 27 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector* "Preachers should speak to modern ears: Lewis," the word of God is never, never-ever boring to the true believers in the Virgin Birth, the death on the cross, and the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is my Lord and he sits at the right hand of God for me.

The boring comes from the little story forms and trying to place guilt trips on the congregation.

The saving grace of God comes directly from the Word of God and the Holy Spirit will use the Word of God to bring whom he will to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The *Baptist and Reflector* should have never stood behind this article for publication.

Gloria Jean McRicht
Lawrenceburg 38464

Note: The speaker did not

say the Word of God was boring. He referred to the delivery of the sermon. — Lonnie Wilkey

Answers question

Jerry Heflin, in the May 20 issue of the *Baptist and Reflector*, raised a question about the vote by Carson-Newman College trustees: "Why did they feel this was necessary?"

It was necessary to prevent a repeat of the closed door meeting and wholesale firing of 13 professors as was the case at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1958. I remember it well. It was the month of my graduation. I had studied under many of the 13 teachers in quest of the bachelor of divinity degree. They were fired without so much as a hearing.

Furthermore, it was necessary to prevent a repeat of the firing of a president as in the case of Russell Dilday by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees in 1994. Again the firing took place behind closed doors. Reporters were barred from the meeting and locks on his office doors were changed the same day.

Can you imagine the firing of the president of Carson-Newman College under similar circumstances? I can, and so could the trustees of Carson-Newman College.

Carson-Newman College was forced to take steps to safeguard its integrity and guarantee its self-preservation. I applaud the great wisdom and courage exhibited in the action taken by the trustees.

I can only hope that their action will serve as the catalyst for other schools to follow suit.

Leonard W. Riley
Memphis 38115



Hospital offers summer safety tips for children

Though summer is often an exciting time for children, it can also be a dangerous time as well.

Longer daylight hours, no school, and more outdoor activities are all factors that increase a child's risks for summer hazards.

"Summer is a time when kids are outside a lot more, so parents need to take proper precautions to reduce their children's risks," said Donna Mason, director of the Emergency Pavilion in Nashville.

"It's a good time to look at childproofing the home, things such as locking cabinets and removing any poison ivy or poison oak from the yard.

"It's also a good time to update your first aid kit. Make sure you have all of the necessities should an emergency arise."

Mason pointed out two common summer hazards and offered tips to prevent them.

(1) Bicycle accidents: In 1996, more than 350,000 children age 14 and younger were treated in an emergency room for bike-related injuries. Of those, 225 died. Children under the age of 10 are at high risk because they often lack the proper judgment and physical coordination to ride safely.

Children should always wear a helmet at all time and it should fit snugly. A helmet can reduce a child's risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent.

(2) Backyard hazards: The backyard is often a popular place for children to play during the summer months. Though you may think of your own yard as a safe place to play, your child is at risk for anything from a burn from a hot grill to a cut from sharp lawn furniture or garden tools.

Tips include never allowing a child under 14 to operate a power mower or let a child ride on the mower with you, clear the yard of debris and rocks before you mow, rid yard of poisonous plants, and keep kids away from a hot grill. ■

Memphis church reaches apartment ...



— Continued from page 1
the Saturday study.

Taylor and Herron coordinate assistance from Sunday School classes, which accept weekly Saturday assignments. And they plan other activities. For example, a group from Samples Memorial Church, Cleveland, will help Monument of Love lead a Vacation Bible School at the Hope Center in July.

Over the past 10 months since regular Saturday activities have been held, as many as 25 youngsters have gathered each week, said Herron.

To reach residents

To reach youngsters, he and other church members distribute packets of information about the Hope Center to new residents.

Soon Herron hopes to offer age graded activities for children and then activities for adult residents of Prescott Place.

Then the Hope Center can, with the help of residents, begin to offer literacy training, food, clothing, and other assistance to residents, said Herron. He also is praying for a chaplain who will serve the center. Eventually, a congregation can be formed through the Hope Center, he explained.

In fact, two congregations may be formed because both African Americans and Hispanics live at Prescott Place, Herron said. Then Monument of Love will ask Primera Iglesia Hispana in Memphis to help, he added.

Hope for Hope Center

The work of the

Hope Center is indigenous in that it is being led by members of the community, explained Herron, so he believes it has a good future. Monument of Love is responding to past efforts of Lamar Heights Church, which was located at the Monument of Love facili-

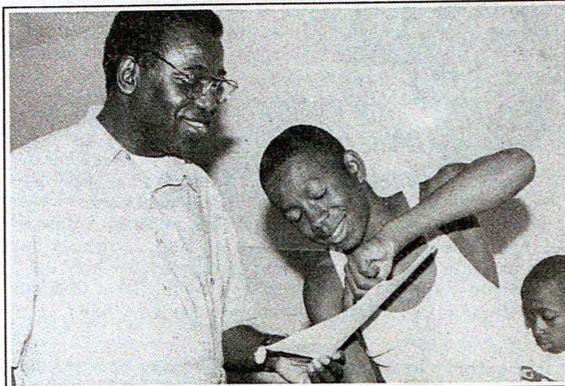
ty, and Cherry Road Church in the community.

"We are building on the foundation they laid," explained Herron.

His hope is strengthened by the youngsters attending the Hope Center, who are asking to sing songs they have

learned there, said Herron. That encourages him.

Taylor agreed. "If just one person is looking forward to seeing us, it's all worth it," she said. **B&R**



DISCUSSING a teen's responses to an activity is James Herron.



ENJOYING TREATS on the apartment's playground are some of the youngsters who attend the weekly activities and leaders Donna Taylor, left, and James Herron, second from left.

Memphis pastor's sayings provide motivation for his life

For Baptist and Reflector

MEMPHIS — He may be known for his quips and quotes, but he doesn't mind, said Lawrence Hudson, pastor, Monument of Love Church, here.

He not only says them for the benefit of others, but for himself, he explained. Some of his sayings are even posted around the church.

"If you take it to God in prayer, I declare he'll take it from there."

"Methods are many, principles are few; methods always change, but principles never do."

"He (God) doesn't put heavy burdens on weak shoulders. God's will is his bill."

Hudson also likes acrostics and acronyms. Members of Monument of Love are very familiar with PUSH — pray until something happens, and HOME which

stands for hope, obedience, mentoring, and expectations.

And Hudson seems to take his motivational sayings personally.

He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration which he earned while serving as a civil service employee in several different cities.

He loved his work and his life so he can't explain what happened next in his life, said Hudson.

When he was transferred to Memphis, he began speaking in churches. Then a church called him as a bivocational pastor. He was 45 years old.

Although his life in service to a church is much more demanding than his former life, Hudson said, "The Lord enables me everyday."

He has served Monument of Love Church for 14 years. During

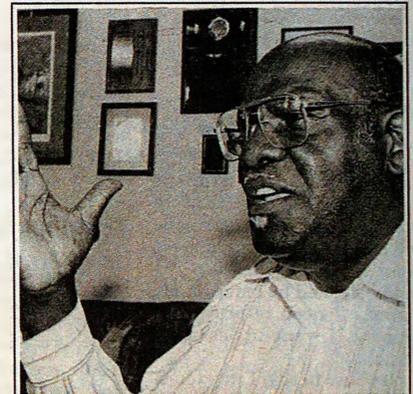
that period he became full-time and he led the congregation to become associated with Southern Baptists.

Hudson's childhood doesn't seem to be a predictor of his future. As a youngster he picked cotton in Oklahoma. Today he participates in the elite training program, "Leadership Memphis '98." And he continues his education as a student at the Tennessee School of Religion in Memphis.

Hudson credits his successes to his upbringing, which focused on hard work and faith in God.

One of his life goals can be described with another of his max-

ims, said Hudson. "A man must not protest to change the world, but he must protest to keep the world from changing him." — Connie Davis



LAWRENCE HUDSON makes a point about his ministry while in his office.

Fayetteville church holds first block party; prepares for missions trip

MEMBERS OF West End Church, Fayetteville, ranging from preschoolers to senior adults, are helping to prepare for an upcoming missions trip related to Mississippi River Ministry. From left, Ola Mae Edmonston and Kristen and Heather Ables deposit money in "The Jug" which will be used to help with expenses related to the trip. — Photos by Gania Langston



For Baptist and Reflector

FAYETTEVILLE — West End Church presented an evangelistic block party in a housing project here on May 30, the first such effort not only for the church but in Fayetteville as well.

Forty West End volunteers conducted the party for 120 neighborhood guests, according to Pastor Mike Johnson.

Jesus was shared through music, puppets, clowning, a testimony, and an evangelistic message by Johnson. There were two professions of faith.

In addition, the church is

preparing for a mission trip to Memphis as a part of Mississippi River Ministry. A team of 28 volunteers will leave July 11 for a week of ministry with three

churches — New Song, Highland Heights, and Brinkley Heights.

Members of West End are thankful for the opportunity to share Jesus, Johnson said. ■



WEST END CHURCH recently held its first block party.



The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Newsletter

Featuring news from Tennessee Baptists' four partnerships — Canada, Michigan, Rio de Janeiro, and Costa Rica

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team, TBC, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, Tenn., 37024

Phone (615) 371-2021; FAX (615) 371-2014

From your missionary

Every moment of discovery changes the course of history. Ordinary events can become extraordinary. Thousands are experiencing extraordinary events each year because God is changing history and allowing us to be a part of it.



SHARP

Many are no longer content with business as usual. They are rearranging their priorities so they can be ready to be "on mission" with God and reach the people of the world with the Good News.

We are in the midst of something exciting in missions, maybe a divine moment of God. Doors of opportunities are opening that have been literally closed for hundreds of years. People groups are hearing the Gospel for the very first time because we are sensing the urgency of the hour.

While we have seen a record number of Tennesseans enjoying some extraordinary moments as volunteer missionaries, others have never experienced this wonderful opportunity to be "on mission" with God. It is my dream to see every Tennessee church send one volunteer missionary on a local, national, and international mission trip.

Imagine what it would mean to the Kingdom and to the churches of Tennessee if our churches would feel the urgency and meet this challenge.

We will be challenging every church to send one volunteer missionary to a local, national, and international mission trip by the year 2000. Imagine every church starting out the new millennial "on mission" with God to share the Good News of Jesus.

In Christ,

Levy

First team of its kind to serve there

Team does sports evangelism in Costa Rica

By Betty Wiseman, associate professor
For *The Macedonian Call*

Twelve Belmont University basketball players and I spent May 18-28 in Costa Rica doing a partnership/volunteer missions project called "Giants for Christ." It was the first Sport Evangelism project done in Costa Rica.

IBM missionary Sue Smith and her assistant Walter Rodriguez coordinated the project. We also worked with Alejandro Guevara, president of the National Union of Baptist Churches and Carlos Guzman, pastor of the Baptist Church of Cartago. Guevara and Guzman coordinated the basketball clinic sites in San Jose and Cartago in public and private high schools, and universities.

A few hours after we arrived, Smith asked, "Can you be ready to go by 4:30 p.m.? You are scheduled to give a clinic at 6 p.m. Hope you don't mind that we have you heavily scheduled."

After getting the basketballs pumped up with air, we were off for eight straight days of basketball.

God had prepared the way for us in high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, sports clubs, and the Technological Institute.

"Teach us to play the game," the people

said. "Talk to us about drugs, alcohol, and making choices. Tell us why you are here? Why is Jesus so important to you? W.W.J.D., what is that?"

The people heard personal testimonies of Christ in our lives. It didn't take long to see why we were in Costa Rica because God had put us there and it was his trip.

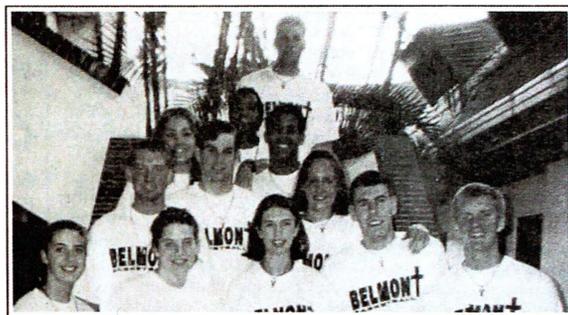
We soon forgot about wooden basketball courts, concrete floors, and greeted the players. Sometimes the court was just an asphalt driveway with no gym. There was hot sunshine, sweat, mosquitoes and ants, and lots of bottled water.

We played, taught, gave demonstrations, laughed and cried while we witnessed to hundreds of young people and adults. If they came to see basketball, they didn't get away without hearing about Christ.

Sunday afternoon while we were outside an old gym with

Pastor Guzman and many of the local youth, I received a phone call from Nashville. I was told that my friend and colleague, Bill Bandy, chairman of Belmont University's Physical Education, Health, and Wellness Department, had just died from a massive heart attack.

I thought this just couldn't be happening. He was the healthiest man in the world. Some of the students had taken final exams in his classes the week before — See Team, page 8



TEAM MEMBERS were, from left, first row, Mitzi Blankenship, Holly McGee, Leah Primm, Jeremy Kees, Jay Lannon; second row, Michael Couey, Jared Karnes, Jessica Matson; third row, Andrea Wax, Dougie Webb; fourth row, Sheika Taylor; and top row, Ryan Steger.

Knoxville team ministers in Rio de Janeiro

For *The Macedonian Call*

A construction team from Ebenezer Church in Knoxville recently discovered that in the process of building a wall in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, many communication and cultural "walls" would be broken down for them, according to their pastor, Jim Clayton.

"The lives of eight men from Ebenezer Church in Knoxville will never be the same," Clayton said. "We also learned a great spiritual truth."

The Ebenezer group left May 29 for Rio de Janeiro,

Brazil, to build a wall at a rescue home for "street children." The wall being built by the men began a symbolic communication and cultural change in their lives.

Other members of the Ebenezer construction team besides Clayton were Aaron Clifton, Arthur Clifton, Tony Evans, Doug Lane, Joe Miller, and Darrell Fawver.

The group worked with IBM missionary and volunteer coordinator for Tennessee/Rio partnership, Elizabeth Oates, and ISC volunteer, Wendy Stout.

"We lived for the next eight

days at the Samaritan House, a place of recovery for hardcore drug users," Clayton said. "Through a personal relationship with Jesus, an intense Bible study and prayer program, and a disciplined schedule, these drug addicts are putting the pieces of their broken lives back together."

"We soon discovered a warmth, love, and acceptance that transcends language barriers and would leave a lasting impression on our lives. These 14 residents not only opened their homes, but they also opened their hearts to us."

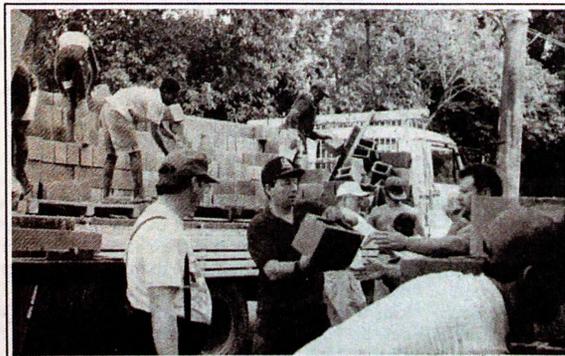
"We worshiped with them, sang with them, laughed and cried with them, and we became the recipients of their deep abiding faith and love for Jesus." On June 1 the group arrived at the work site, located some 10 miles from where

they were staying. It was a home for 12 homeless "street children" who were taken in, trained, taught, and loved by the Carioca Convention.

The children, who ranged in ages from 7 to 13, were abandoned by parents and lived on the streets. The children knew little in life except stealing, panhandling, and prostitution for survival. The Carioca Convention provided a place of refuge for the children by teaching them the love of Jesus as well as social skills.

The initial need and purpose for the team to go to Brazil was the construction of a concrete block "security wall" at the rear of the property. Due to its poor construction, the present wall was near collapsing.

"We found out first that the construction, planning, technique, and materials in Brazil are much different than what we have in Tennessee, and the repair needs at both the men's home and the children's home were great. We also discovered — See Knoxville, page 8



UNLOADING CONCRETE blocks which were used to build the security wall for the children's home are workers and Tennessee volunteers.

Knoxville team ministers ...

— Continued from page 7
due to the enormity of the task, the lack of adequate communication and interpretation, and the constraints on both time and weather, a serious spiritual challenge emerged for the members of the Ebenezer group.

By June 2, it became obvious to the team that it would not complete the 106 ft. long by 8 ft. high wall by the close of the workday on June 5. It was a disappointing discovery at first, but it led to a greater truth.

"We began to realize the real purpose for our trip to Brazil. We were sent there not so much to build a wall, but to 'break down' some walls of communication and culture. Rather than build an eight foot high wall, our task was simply to lay a foundation so that others would come later and build upon it."

The workers completed the foundation for the wall, moving sand, gravel, concrete mix, cement blocks, and buckets of water by wheelbarrow and by hand from early morning until late evening. In the evenings, the group built on the foundation of love and respect by singing, eating, laughing, studying, and having fellowship with the men at the Samaritan House.

At both residences, the team worked on electrical repairs and plumbing needs. "Our men worked with their hands, but we were the recipients of the children's love, the smiles on the faces of 'unwanted men,' and an unparalleled spiritual growth."

When they left on June 5, the Brazilians had left a lasting impression on their lives. "In the process we learned a great spiritual truth. It is that God sometimes has other plans than those we make. When we follow his plan and his will, oh the joy it brings!" ■

Middle Tennessee women lead prayer retreats

For *The Macedonian Call*

Ann Davenport of McMinnville and Carolyn Outland of Murfreesboro began their second mission trip to Costa Rica April 16 by waiting for tornado warnings to lapse so they could fly out of the Nashville airport.

Davenport, a member of First Church, McMinnville, and Outland, a member of Belle Aire Church, Murfreesboro, served as prayer retreat leaders April 16-25 in the Central Valley Area of Costa Rica. They led prayer retreats for missionary women and national pastors' wives.

When they flew out of Nashville following tornadoes and also plane repairs, they arrived late in Miami. "Our connecting flight in Miami had already gone," Davenport said. "Then we watched TV monitors during a six-hour delay in Miami and saw the impending storms heading for Nashville in the afternoon."

"We prayed for family and friends. This was one day that we were glad that God had placed a call on us for foreign missions," she added.

"We had felt a clear call to return to Costa Rica following our 1997 prayer retreats and lifestyle witnessing trip, but we knew the next time that it would be to encourage missionary women."

True to God's impression, the Mission of Central Costa Rica issued an invitation for Davenport and Outland to lead a prayer retreat for missionary women. "It is a daunting task to prepare a word for women who have sacrificed so much and have such deep hearts and spirits for the Lord. We knew that God would enable us," Davenport said.

"God's word came and encouraged a group of women who were facing the challenge of a country that is in spiritual darkness where growth is slow and problems abound. These same missionary women encouraged us by their warmth, acceptance and communi-

cation of God's reality in their lives."

In other opportunities, the missionary women of the language school in San Jose gave an invitation to lead a mini-retreat. IMB Missionary Jurhee Philpot hosted the retreat in her home, which was close to the missionary language school campus.

"We were overwhelmed by the warmth and spirituality of these new missionaries, who will soon be sent through the Spanish speaking world," Davenport added.

They also conducted a mini-prayer retreat with national pastors' wives of the Central Mission, visited a new church work in Concepcion, helped with conversational English classes, and spoke in three churches.

"As we departed home, our hearts were



MISSIONARIES AND Costa Ricans attending a retreat pause during activities led by Ann Davenport, fifth from left, and Carolyn Outland, second from right.

full with new relationships formed with missionaries who will soon be spread all over God's world. We renewed our commitment to pray for the missionaries, for the IMB as it administers new plans for world evangelism, and for the small country of Costa Rica that has won our hearts." ■

One volunteer finds support for effort

By Carolyn Outland
For *The Macedonian Call*

When Ann Davenport and I accepted an invitation to return to Costa Rica, we trusted that God would provide the finances. God was faithful to provide the basic trip expenses, and I saved a small amount for added costs.

A month before departure date, Ann and I were having lunch at a West Tennessee restaurant. We sensed that our waitress was not a Christian and we prayed that God would lead us to witness. However, she never returned to our table.

As we were leaving the restaurant, we saw the waitress on a phone and visibly upset. We learned that her mother in Indiana had just experienced a massive stroke. The waitress did not have the

money to make the trip to visit her mother.

God spoke very clearly to me. "Give the waitress the \$100 for her trip to visit her mother," he said.

Clutching my purse to my side, I argued, "All I have is my Costa Rica money. What about MY trip?"

His spirit nudged again to give. I took out \$100 and gave it to the waitress. I was left with \$3. Ann and I assured the waitress of our prayers.

After we left the restaurant, Ann said she wanted to share in ministry to the waitress and gave me \$50.

The following Sunday, two people at my church handed me a total of \$300 for my trip. The next week my daughter and son-in-law gave me \$100.

I later shared with a group of friends how God had blessed me. One of the friends looked at me with wide eyes. She said, "God told me last night to give you \$100."

I assured her I did not need her money. She quickly replied, "God told me to do this." She pushed a \$100 bill into my hand.

On the last Sunday before our departure, the Sunday School class that Ann teaches presented her with a love gift of \$530 for the trip.

We gave God \$100 and God returned to us \$1,030. We left for Costa Rica with more money than we needed. The remainder is now seed money for a future mission trip.

Do you want to go on a mission trip? Do you worry about the finances? "My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory," Philippians 4:19 (NAS). ■



LEADING a witnessing conference are, from left, Ann Davenport, Ruth Martinez of Costa Rica who served as a translator, and Carolyn Outland.

First team of its kind to serve there

Team from university does sports evangelism in Costa Rica

— Continued from page 7
we left home. I fell apart and we crumbled.

It didn't take long for God to reveal himself and his powerful touch to us. We chose as a team to finish what he had begun in us, to depend on God's goodness and mercy, and to claim Psalm 121.

God moved in a mighty way that night as players gave testimonies in worship. Pastor Guzman shared in the tragedy of the day and how he

had seen God at work in our team's lives.

I don't believe that I've ever experienced the amount and extent of emotions in one day as we did that Sunday. We truly experienced God in an awesome way.

I was reminded of how missionaries all over the world face death of family and friends in far away places on a regular basis. I felt a oneness of Spirit with my brothers and sisters in Christ who struggle with things that we

Christians at home take for granted. It is the freedom to grieve with those we love when processing pain and death.

I don't know who was blessed more in this situation. Was it the youth and adults that we reached out to, the missionary coordinators and their families, or was it us? We know that many seeds were sown in Costa Rica. Missionary kids were part of our team and came to see how sports can reach people for Christ.

Project coordinators were amazed at the reality of Sports Evangelism. I have been privileged to lead teams on many occasions, but I honestly never experienced the power of the Holy Spirit before as I did on this trip.

One of the team members remarked when we returned home that he was worn out and tired. But it was a "good tired." We had spent ourselves completely playing basketball and witnessing for Christ, and a part of us would forever remain in Costa Rica. ■

The Macedonian Call

Ministers of music serve churches, seminary in Canada

For The Macedonian Call

Fifteen members of the Tennessee Church Music Conference returned from a Partnership/Volunteer Missions effort to Canada in May. Eight members worked in churches in British Columbia where they led several workshops in the Vancouver and Kamloops areas. And seven taught at the Canadian Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta, and in churches in Calgary.

Tom Blackaby of Royal Heights Church in Vancouver and Kevin Madden of Hillcrest Church in Kamloops organized the missions effort for British Columbia.

Vancouver is a city of three million that is largely unchurched and has the largest China town on the Pacific Coast. Royal Heights Church has three ethnic congregations that use its building. The churches are Vietnamese, Indian, and Philippine.

On Saturday, several conferences were held at Royal Heights Church and Vancouver Chinese Church. Mike Dannel of East Athens Church, Athens, and Julian Suggs of Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board ministries led a worship leaders' retreat.

Tracy Wilson of First Church, Dandridge, led a sound system workshop, and John Hensley of First Church, Winchester, led a praise team workshop. Louis Ball, retired Music Department dean of Carson-Newman College, taught piano and organ. Several church music leaders from the area attended the workshops at Royal

Heights.

At the same time, Larry Brant of First Church, Camden, led a children's choir workshop, Kyle Wilson, layman from Knoxville, led a song leading workshop, and Ball discussed worship with a Bible study class at Vancouver Chinese Church.

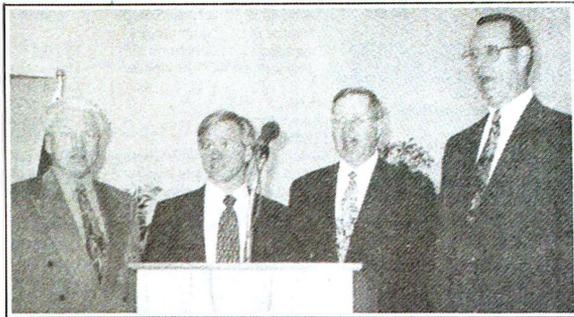
On Sunday the group led in three different worship services. Ball also led a piano and organ workshop on Sunday afternoon while Dannel led an adult choir workshop at Royal Heights and Tracy Wilson led likewise at Vancouver Chinese. That night the team reassembled to lead a round table discussion at Royal Heights on outreach and the local church.

A music reading conference was led on Monday evening at the Vancouver Chinese Church.

Tuesday was spent on the road to Hillcrest Church in Kamloops. Tuesday evening Dannel and Hensley led a praise team conference and Tracy Wilson taught a children's and preschool Sunday School teachers' conference. Hillcrest Church is the fastest growing church in Capilano



MEETING with a seminary student is Tom Wickes, left, of First Church, Cleveland, one of the Tennesseans who served as an instructor there.



PERFORMING during a graduation ceremony at the Canadian seminary are, from left, Bob Matthews, Dennis Johnson, Tom Wickes, and Bob Chambers.

Association. Melvin Blackaby serves as church pastor.

At the church on Wednesday, Ball held a keyboard workshop, and Brant and Kyle Wilson led an adult choir workshop. The response to the workshops was terrific and the people were receptive. Many new Christian friends were made in British Columbia.

Teaching at the seminary and at churches in Calgary were Dennis and Deborah Johnson of First Church, Covington; Bob Chambers of First Church, Maryville; Bob Matthews of Faith Church, Bartlett; Tom Wickes, of First Church, Cleveland, and Julian and Frances Suggs. They taught Introduction to Church Music, a for-credit course.

For four members of the group, it was a second time for them to teach a course at the seminary. Wickes, the

Johnsons, and Julian Suggs had taught a similar course in 1996.

The ministers of music also taught non-credit courses such as song leading, using hymns and choruses, and keyboards in worship.

The group sang on a Sunday, at Cambrian Heights Church, Filipino Church, and Mt. View Christian Fellowship, all in Calgary. The Mt. View Fellowship is a new congregation that meets in the Calgary Olympic Park. Besides singing in churches, they also sang at the graduation exercises of the seminary.

This trip was part of the continuing effort of the partnership between the Tennessee Convention and the Canadian Convention which provides faculty for the course and support to the local churches. ■

Prayerwalk Practicum set

For The Macedonian Call

Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team will be hosting a Prayerwalk Training Practicum on Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Baptist Center in Brentwood from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The prayerwalk is a spiritual phenomenon which has unfolded in recent years and is "praying on site with insight." Bob McEachern of the International Mission Board will be leading the practicum. McEachern has done prayerwalks and taught this practicum many times. He served as a missionary in Korea for 14 years.

In addition to classroom instruction, there will be an actual prayerwalk.

There is no cost for this event, but one is asked to register by calling the Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team at (615) 371-2021 or 1-800-558-2090. Deadline to register is Sept. 7. ■



MC EACHERN

Kingsport church helps start Michigan church

By Marcia Knox
For The Macedonian Call

A five-person team from Cedar Grove Church in Kingsport worked May 14-17 with its Michigan partnership sister church, Immanuel Church in Pinckney, doing telephone survey to help establish a new church in Dexter.

Cedar Grove pastor, Edgar Pierce, said the Tennessee telephone survey team made

over 300 phone calls to Dexter area church prospects. Since the completion of the Cedar Grove team's telephone survey, a Bible study has been established in the local library in Dexter.

Members of the Cedar Grove telephone survey team were Jerry Ramey, church missions coordinator; Pauline Estep, Janet Mullins, Cornie Norton, and Judy Canty.

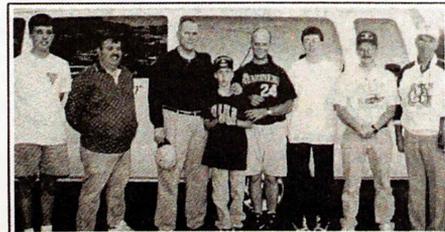
In April seven members of Cedar Grove Church along with the director of missions for Sullivan Association, Tommy Holtzclaw, traveled to Michigan to look at two areas for a new church start.

The April

trip was a 600 mile pre-project trip to look at the possibility of starting a new church in Chelsea or Dexter. Cedar Grove members who made the trip were: Jeremy Ramey, Jerry Ramey, Edgar Pierce, Cody Pierce, David Silver, Daniel Pierce, and Beeler Mullins. Silver also serves as church youth minister.

While in Michigan, the Cedar Grove team met with Bob Wilson, pastor of Immanuel Church, Pinckney, Roy Babb, director of missions for Huron Association, and Alan McCoy, pastor of Hamburg Fellowship Mission. The group discussed the needs and opportunities for starting new churches in the Huron Association.

Sullivan Association is proud of the fact that it is well on the way to fulfilling its commitment to helping their friends in Michigan start five new churches in the area, Holtzclaw said. ■



TEAM MEMBERS were, from left, Jeremy Ramey, Jerry Ramey, Edgar Pierce, Cody Pierce, David Silver, Daniel Pierce, Beeler Mullins, and Tommy Holtzclaw, director of missions, Sullivan Association.

Send accounts of missions work

For The Macedonian Call

If you are involved in a TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions effort, why not share it with Tennessee Baptists by

sending an account to *The Macedonian Call*. The Partnership/Volunteer Missions team newsletter is published once a month in the *Baptist and Reflector*.

Send to Marcia Knox, Tennessee Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728 or via the Internet at www.tnbaptist.org at Mknox@tnbaptist.org. ■

Partnership Prayer Requests

June

24 — Pray for the Genesee Association in Michigan which is seeking a director of missions.

25 — Pray for Claire Nettles, a missionary who is a teacher in Costa Rica.

26 — Pray for Nathan Robinson, Tonya Dean, Toby McMillian, and Sara Shelton, BSU students working this month in Rio de Janeiro.

27 — Praise God for the many spiritual decisions made at the Royal Ambassador Congress in Michigan.

28 — Pray for Rhett and Lisa King, missionaries who work with youth in Costa Rica.

29 — Pray for Dwain Laramore, retired director of missions, Genesee Association, Michigan.

30 — Pray for Leigh Anne Dobbins, Courtney Stafford, and Julie Jones of Union University who are serving this summer in Rio de Janeiro.

The Macedonian Call

Costa Rica Projects

Evangelism

Project #: PM71998808
 Dates: Sept. 1998
 Location: Heredia
 Description: Evangelistic Campaign
 A total of 4 volunteers are needed to do a youth revival for ages 12 and up and children's activities for ages 9 to 12.

Medical

Project #: PM71998832
 Dates: Open
 Location: South Zone
 Description: Medical
 A total of 5 volunteers are needed to do dental work in a rural area.

Michigan Projects

Construction

Project #: N-6B
 Dates: Open
 Location: Oscoda
 Description: Construction
 Volunteers are needed to replace roof of 60,000 sq. ft. single story building including materials and labor.

Project #: GD-3
 Dates: Open
 Location: Detroit
 Description: Construction
 Volunteers are needed to do repair work on existing building.

Project #: GD-4
 Dates: Open
 Location: Detroit
 Description: Construction
 Volunteers are needed to build new restrooms.

Project #: SC-3
 Dates: Open
 Location: Battle Creek
 Description: Construction
 A team of 4-6 volunteers are needed to repair block siding of church and chimney.

Music Ministry

Project #: N-5
 Dates: Open
 Location: Prudenville
 Description: Music Ministry
 Congregation song leader and pianist are needed.

Evangelism

Project #: M-3
 Dates: Open
 Location: Hazel Park
 Description: Evangelism/Church Growth
 Revival teams, evangelism, and church planting activities are needed to help mission church.

Telephone Survey

Project #: H-1
 Dates: Open
 Location: Ann Arbor
 Description: Telephone Survey
 A total of 6-12 volunteers are needed to do telephone survey for new work prospects.

Project #: H-2
 Dates: Open
 Location: Chelsea
 Description: Telephone Survey
 A total of 6-12 volunteers are needed to do telephone survey for new work prospects.

Project #: H-3
 Dates: Open
 Location: Dexter
 Description: Telephone Survey
 A total of 6-12 volunteers are needed to do telephone survey for new work prospects.

Project #: H-4
 Dates: Open
 Location: Pinckney
 Description: Telephone Survey
 A total of 6-12 volunteers are needed to do telephone survey for new work prospects.

Canada Projects

Evangelism

Project #: 98NOR029
 Dates: Oct. 4-7, 1998
 Location: Charlottetown
 Description: Evangelism
 A team of 3 is needed to lead revival services.

Project #: 97NOR016
 Dates: Nov. 7-11, 1998
 Location: Prince Albert
 Description: Evangelism/Music
 A team of 10-12 is needed to hold nightly revival services with music and drama.

Project #: 97NOR027
 Dates: Open
 Location: Prince Albert
 Description: Library
 Volunteers are needed to provide Christian library for Scarborough Church.

Rio de Janeiro Projects

Evangelism

Project #: PM41998912
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism/Construction
 A team of 10 is needed to do evangelism and light construction in small churches.

Project #: PM41998907
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Construction/Evangelism
 A team of 12 is needed to do construction and refurbishing work at the Centers for Social Work. They will also do evangelistic work in neighboring churches and other activities of the Social Work Board.

Project #: PM41998913
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism
 A team is needed to do evangelism in small churches.

Project #: PM41998925
 Dates: Aug. 9-17, 1998
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism
 A team of 15 is needed to do revival in the Governador Association.

Project #: PM41998914
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism/Creative Ministries
 A team is needed to do evangelism and creative ministries in small churches and new congregations.

Project #: PM41998917
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism/Construction
 A team is needed to do evangelism and construction in small churches and new congregations. Also help complete construction on a small church.

Project #: PM41998920
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism
 A total of 20 volunteers are needed to revitalize a church with less than 10 members.

Project #: PM41998919
 Dates: Sept. 27-Oct. 6, 1998
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism
 A total of 20 teams of 2-4 (layperson and music person) are needed for simultaneous revivals in churches in Jacarepaga. Nightly services will be held along with visitation, personal witnessing, speaking in schools, and special musical presentations.

Project #: PM41998904
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism/Drama/Music
 A team is needed to perform in schools, churches, plazas to prepare people for a crusade.

Project #: PM41998905
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism/Drama/Music
 A team is needed to perform in schools, churches, plazas to prepare people for a crusade.

Project #: PM41998933
 Dates: Nov. 1-9, 1998
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Prayer Walking
 A team of 20 is needed to do prayer walk in preparation for new church start.

Project #: PM41998939
 Dates: Oct. 13-20, 1998
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Evangelism
 A team of 10 is needed to do a new church start in the Rocinha slum.

Project #: PM41998931
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Children's Hospital
 A volunteer is needed to upgrade training of children's hospital chaplain.

Chaplain

Project #: PM41998931
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Children's Hospital
 A volunteer is needed to upgrade training of children's hospital chaplain.

Church Planting

Project #: PM41998924
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Church Planting
 A total of 20 volunteers are needed to start a new work in Jacarepaga Association area, called Pantanal.

Project #: PM41998941
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Church Planting
 A team is needed to do a new church start on Governor's Island.

Medical

Project #: B-11
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Medical Team
 A medical team of 10 volunteers is needed to do work in the Rocinha.

Construction

Project #: PM41998909
 Dates: Open
 Location: Rio de Janeiro
 Description: Construction/Evangelism
 A total of 12 volunteers are needed to do refurbishing work at the Centers for Social Work and evangelistic work in area churches.

Tennessee Projects

Construction

Project #: T-19
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A team is needed to do interior work/finishing of a pre-engineered metal building.
 Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, (901) 345-2162

Project #: T-43
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A total of 4-10 volunteers are needed to frame and roof new ministry center.
 Contact: Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: T-42
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A total of 4-10 volunteers are needed to do metal building construction for a new ministry center.
 Contact: Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: T-41
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A total of 2-10 volunteers are needed to do electrical and plumbing work for a new ministry center.
 Contact: Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: T-37
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis

Description: Construction
 A total of 5-15 volunteers are needed to do finish work on church.
 Contact: John Cowherd, (901) 521-6868.

Project #: T-46
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A total of 4-10 volunteers are needed to do paving for parking lot and drive way of new ministry center.
 Contact: Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: T-34
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A total of 5-10 volunteers are needed to replace roof of building.
 Contact: John Cowherd, (901) 521-6868.

Project #: T-32
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A total of 5-20 volunteers are needed to pave parking lot.
 Contact: John Cowherd, (901) 521-6868.

Project #: T-31
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A total of 5-15 volunteers are needed to do plumbing and electrical work on church.
 Contact: John Cowherd, (901) 521-6868.

Project #: T-45
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A total of 4-10 volunteers are needed to do drywall for new ministry building.
 Contact: Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: T-44
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Construction
 A total of 4-10 volunteers are needed to do masonry work on new ministry center.
 Contact: Tim Cox, (901) 458-0617.

Project #: T-47
 Dates: Open
 Location: Dresden
 Description: Construction
 A total of 25-30 volunteers are needed to do construction of a new sanctuary for an African-American church.
 Contact: Richard Skidmore, (901) 364-3739

Camps

Project #: T-35
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Sports Camps
 A total of 10-20 volunteers are needed to do youth outreach with sports evangelism.
 Contact: John Cowherd, (901) 521-6868.

Revival

Project #: T-36
 Dates: Open

Location: Memphis
 Description: Youth revival
 A total of 10-30 volunteers are needed to do a youth revival.
 Contact: John Cowherd, (901) 521-6868.

Clown Ministry

Project #: T-20
 Dates: Open
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Clown Ministry
 A team is needed to give guidance and instructions on starting a puppet ministry.
 Contact: Lawrence O. Hudson, (901) 345-2162

Mission Service Corps

Project: Brinkley Heights Ministry Center
 Dates: Open for Long Term Missions > 4 Months
 Location: Memphis
 Description: Leadership Development
 A team is needed to work with all age groups for one year at the center. Persons would help with leadership development and building relationships. Also needed are minister of recreation, minister of youth, and worship and choir leader.
 Contact: Sam Wilson, director, or Tim Cox, pastor, (901) 458-0617

Project: Woodcock Center
 Dates: Open for Long Term Missions > 4 Months
 Location: Nashville
 Description: Relationships Development
 A team is needed to assist Woodcock Center workers to build relationships of trust and to serve in food and clothing distribution, meal preparation, tutoring, youth recreation, and vocational training.
 Contact: Tony Langton, pastor and director, (615) 254-9380

Project: Copper Basin Crisis Center
 Dates: Open for Long Term Missions > 4 Months
 Location: Ducktown
 Description: Distribution and Counseling
 A team is needed to assist Copper Basin Crisis Center work in food, clothing and used furniture distribution. They will also counsel and coordinate volunteer teams.
 Contact: Al Patterson, director of missions for Copper Basin Association, (423) 496-7977 (office) or (423) 496-2826 (home)

Project: Appalachian Outreach
 Dates: Open for Long Term Missions > 4 Months
 Location: Jefferson City
 Description: Volunteer Coordinator
 A team is needed to coordinate volunteer activity for home remodeling in rural area. Persons must be skilled in construction with ability to do home repair work.
 Contact: Shannon Washam, director, (423) 475-5611

Preachers, Laypersons, Musicians Needed for August/September Revivals

For The Macedonian Call

Tennessee Baptists have the opportunity to participate in the upcoming Simultaneous Revivals in Rio de

Janeiro, Brazil, scheduled Aug. 9-17 and Sept. 27 - Oct. 6. More volunteers are needed to sign up for the revivals.

Especially needed are preachers for the Aug. 9-17 revivals and laypersons

and musicians for the Sept. 27 - Oct. 6 meetings. The deadline to sign up is July 11.

Contact the TBC Partnership/Volunteer Missions Team for informa-

tion on the revivals at 1-800-558-2090 or (615) 371-2021. Or contact our office by way of the convention's Web site at www.tnbaptist.org and then at Tsharp@tnbaptist.org.

During SBC annual meeting

Missionaries with state ties commissioned

By Connie Davis
Baptist and Reflector

SALT LAKE CITY — Two couples with Tennessee ties were among 38 people commissioned as career missionaries during the Wednesday evening session of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting here.

Philip and Kimberly Cain were appointed to the Niger Republic, Africa, during the annual meeting. The couple will serve there along with their daughter, Caroline.

The Cains said they were looking forward to the commissioning service at the annual meeting for two reasons. They were attending their first SBC annual meeting and they were looking forward to missions service.

Kimberly Cain, the former Kimberly Stanley, is a native of Murfreesboro. She grew up attending Third Church and Southeast Church there. Cain is a graduate of Union University, Jackson; and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., where she

met Philip.

She credits the Baptist Student Union at Union University for leading her to consider missions as a career. She encourages college students to participate in BSU activities, she said.

Philip, a native of Idaho, also got interested in missions at the BSU of Montana State University, he said, and while attending Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Philip served in Burkino Faso, Africa, from 1985-87 as a journeyman. After the couple married, they served as short-term missionaries from 1995-97 in the Niger Republic.

They have enjoyed their

stay in the U.S. while being approved as career missionaries, but they are anxious to return to Africa, they reported.

Ed and Elenir Ridge also were appointed during the commissioning service. They will serve in Ecuador.

They said they were looking forward to the commissioning service although Ed Ridge said he was nervous about speaking to such a large crowd when the couple gives their testimony. He said he usually speaks to about 90 people in the church he has served as pastor in Pennsylvania. The Ridge family, which includes four children, are from Pennsylvania.

The couple has Tennessee ties because they moved to Memphis to attend Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, 1985-88. They also served McLean Church there as youth workers and janitors.

Tennessee was an important part of their life jour-

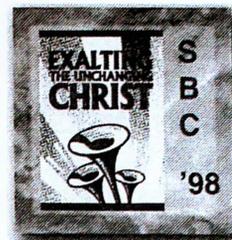
ney, they said, because they moved there soon after marrying and began their family in Memphis.

Anna Ridge, 11, said she made a friend while living in Memphis who continues to be a friend and who has agreed to be a pen pal while she lives in South America.

Ed Ridge also is thankful for a job he began in Tennessee with Federal Express. That employment helped him because when he graduated and returned to Pennsylvania, he continued to work for the company while he served a church as a bivocational pastor.

The family looks forward to their work in South America because they feel a connection to it, said Elenir Ridge. Her family is from Brazil and her grandmother learned about God from a Southern Baptist missionary, she said.

However, they also will depend on prayers, said Ed Ridge, so he asked Tennessee Baptists to remember them as they begin this new venture. B&R



THE RIDGE FAMILY, who will serve in Ecuador, include, from left, front row, Elena, 8; Patrick, 6; Matthew, 2 months; and second row, Ed; Anna, 11; and Elenir Ridge. They stand in the exhibit area of the International Mission Board.



THE CAINS, Philip and Kimberly pause in the exhibit area of the International Mission Board. They and their daughter, Caroline, 4, will serve in the Niger Republic.

West Tennessean elected president of evangelist group

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — West Tennessee evangelist Jerry Drace was elected president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists during their annual meeting June 10,

held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition to preaching salvation, Drace, of Humboldt, said evangelists need to understand better how to reach families who are hurting.

Drace and 24 other key leaders of the COSBE are scheduled to meet this summer with James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family and Bob Record, president of the North American Mission Board, to discuss key issues families face and ways evangelists can be more effective in addressing those issues.

Whether Dobson can participate in the meeting is not known. Less than a week after addressing the final session at the SBC annual meeting, Dobson was hospitalized June 16 in Colorado Springs, Colo. Tests concluded he suffered a mild stroke.

"The purpose of the meeting is to raise evangelists to a conscious effort that we need to address family issues," Drace said in a June 9 interview at the Salt Palace Convention Center.

Drace said he believes evangelists need to concentrate more on specialized ministries to the family and work closely with other Southern Baptists to effectively reach people.

Evangelists traditionally

are known as being "fiercely independent" and frequently joke about feeling like "step-children," said Drace, who believes cooperation with NAMB and other Southern Baptist entities is necessary if evangelists are to be part of a team effort.

"We as Southern Baptist evangelists really want to tie in to what's happening in Southern Baptist life," Drace said. "We really want to be considered part of the family."

"Holding High the Standard," a new theme for the evangelists' group, is indicative of their efforts to hold each other accountable for enhancing the denomination's view of evangelists, said Kenneth E. Hall, pastor of Northside Church, Valdosta, Ga., and pastor advisor for COSBE.

Both Hall and Drace said a covenant of principles upon which evangelists can agree is part of a plan to require more accountability from those wishing to be recognized as a member of COSBE, which currently lists 600 in a directory produced by NAMB. ■



HUMBOLDT EVANGELIST Jerry Drace was elected president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists during their annual meeting in Salt Lake City. From left are Les Snyder, Illinois, assistant music director; Pamela Valle, Texas, secretary/treasurer; Jerry Robinson, Florida, pastor advisor; Drace; Larry Walker, Texas, parliamentarian; Mike Osborne, Virginia, vice president; and Ken Hall, Georgia, pastor advisor. Another Tennessean, Ken Holland of Franklin, not pictured, was elected music director. — Photo by Jim Veneman

Crossover '98 decisions rise

Baptist and Reflector

SALT LAKE CITY — The number of professions of faith in Jesus Christ has risen to more than 1,700 as a result of Crossover '98.

The event, which encompassed block parties, sports clinics, door-to-door visits, street evangelism, a three-day Hispanic revival, and other efforts — was held June 5-14 in several cities. It was held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Exact results were still being compiled.

In addition, as of June 15, about 1,300 response cards had been received at NAMB offices in Alpharetta, Ga., and 6,219 calls had been received through the toll free number in response to an advertising campaign featuring former Olympic gold medalist gymnast Mary Lou Retton, a Southern Baptist. ■

WMU Foundation taps Alan Medders
Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY — Alan G. Medders, director of church relations at Carson-Newman College since 1995, has been named president of Woman's Missionary Union Foundation, effective July 6.

In his role at C-N Medders served as a development officer for the college and as a liaison with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



MEDDERS

An Alabama native, Medders is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Medders and his wife, Denise, have two daughters. ■

Preschool/Children

First Baptist Church seeks a director of preschool and children ministries. Send resume to P.O. Box 59474, Birmingham, AL 35209.

Wilson's Church Interiors since 1982
Pews - New + Refinishing + Upholstering
Steeple, Baptistry, Furniture, Carpet, Chairs
CALL 1-800-844-1911
www.pews.net
e-mail: wilway@peop.tdsnet.com

Knoxville church honors Greenwells

For Baptist and Reflector

KNOXVILLE — Gordon and Geneva Greenwell were honored with a reception June 7 at Meridian Church here, where they are members.

The reception marked the couple's 65th wedding anniversary and Greenwell's 66th year in the Gospel ministry.

Greenwell has served as pastor of several churches in Tennessee, including First Church, Sweetwater, First Church, Fountain City, First Church, Sevierville, and Sevier Heights Church, Knoxville, where he "retired" in 1979. He has served as interim pastor 14 times at seven churches.

Greenwell was 17 years old



GORDON AND GENEVA Greenwell stand in front of their 'missionary home' in Knoxville. The home has been purchased by Meridian Church to be used by missionaries on furlough.

when he accepted the call to preach. He preached his first sermon in 1932 where his future wife attended. They married a year later.

Meridian Church has bought the Greenwell home to use as a mission home for furloughing missionaries. ■

Accepting Resumes

Full-time Music/Youth. Parsonage included. First Baptist Church, Box 88, Harrisburg, AR 72432.

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
Manufacturers Baptistry Signs
Lights
TOLL FREE 1-800-448-7400
FAX: 804-822-2210 Steeples
P.O. Box 2250 • Danville, VA 24541

Let's visit Israel, where Jesus walked!

Interesting educational and spiritual experiences. A great adventure awaits you! — Fletcher Allen, recently retired Baptist and Reflector editor and veteran of seven varied trips to Israel.

Depart from Nashville International Jetport for this adventure November 16-25. Roundtrip — \$2,289 (two to a room)

Superior hotels, sightseeing by guide with expert Bible knowledge. see Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Masada, Tiberias, Caesarea, Tel Aviv, the Galilee — and more. Get your valid passport ready! Small group for personal attention. Registration deadline is August 1.

Call now for brochure: (615) 790-2488, or write tour hosts Fletcher and Betty Allen, 616 Sugartree Lane, Franklin, Tenn.



The Allens



Call for Free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE
1-800-251-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HINSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

Classified

POSITION: Church seeks full-time minister of education and children with some church staff experience to oversee adult education and coordinate children's ministry. Send resumes with references to New Vision Baptist Church, 1750 N. Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro, TN 37129, Attn: Michael Thomas, or fax to (615) 849-3764.

FOR SALE: Church Furniture — three pieces: communion table, pulpit, & clergy pew, \$1,400. Contact: Second Baptist Church, 4680 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38117; phone: (901) 682-3395; fax: (901) 683-8771.

Call **KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT** in Eureka Springs, Ark., for the best (\$15.25) seats at **THE GREAT PASSION PLAY**, plus economical group lodging, recreation, supper, and breakfast, all for **JUST \$34.95 EACH.** (501) 253-8418.

Houseparents

Are you looking for the most rewarding career of your life? If you are looking for more than just a job, we may have the answer.

Patrick Henry Boys & Girls Plantation, a Christian ministry, is looking for special people with a heart for children. We need surrogate parents for children who come from disadvantaged homes.

If you are interested in learning more about the most rewarding job you'll ever have, please write or call today. Benefits package includes health, dental, and life insurance; competitive salary; housing, vacation; and paid holidays. References required.

Call (804) 376-2006 or send resume to Dr. Sandy C. Gregory, Executive Director, Patrick Henry Boys & Girls Plantation, Route 2, Box 125, Brookneal, VA 24528.

Houseparents Needed in Arkansas

Arkansas Baptist Home for Children in Monticello (call Royce Aston at 1-870-367-5358), Arkansas Baptist Boys Ranch near Harrison (call Clint Morrison at 1-870-741-4362), and the Sunshine Emergency Shelter for children ages birth-12 in Little Rock (call Kelly Crow at 1-501-455-8554).

Vineyard Laborers Needed!

Come plant seeds of "love, joy, peace ... and self-control" and watch them grow in children's lives! Make a difference with your life. Come join our caring professional team — Florida Baptist Children's Home, Tallahassee needs a Christian couple without children. Excellent pay and benefits. Call Doug McWhirter at (850) 878-1458 for information. Pray for us.



Church Buses

- We rent new buses!
 - We buy used buses!
 - Guaranteed buy back!
- Call Henry Headden
Carpenter Bus Sales
Brentwood, Tenn.

Available in 20' to 37' models
(12 to 43 Passenger, New and Used)

1 (800) 370-6180
1 (615) 376-2287
www.carpenterbus.com

Minister of Music Needed

First Baptist Church of Chattanooga is searching for a Minister of Music. This historical congregation has a strong music ministry. This position will be one of six full-time pastoral ministers. FBC is a regional congregation averaging 600 to 650 on Sundays with a resident membership of 1,400. Inclusive in its theology and creative in its approach to ministry, FBC is seeking a high energy person who reflects this perspective. Applicants should be comfortable with Liturgical and Contemporary services.

Resumes should be mailed to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 Gateway Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402.

TWB
Together We Build
CHARTING A NEW COURSE!

fund raising you've trusted for over 30 years
1 > 8 0 0 > 2 5 1 > 4 2 2 0

churches

■ The Praise Alive Choir of Green Acres Church, Tyler, Texas, will perform at Trinity Church, Cordova, July 8 at 6:30 p.m. It will present "Liberty, Justice, Freedom."

■ Members of Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga, will serve in Honduras Sept. 19-26, South Africa July 28 - Aug. 11, and Japan June 25 - July 9.

■ Youth of First Church, Pulaski, will serve in Huntsville, Ala., June 29 - July 3.

■ First Church, Morristown, will hold a Bill Gothard Basic Seminar and Children's Program July 20-25.

■ New Providence Church, Tellico Plains, collected about \$800 worth of medicine for people in the Ukraine recently.

■ Mt. Zion Church, Vonnore, recently broke ground for a new fellowship hall.

■ Inglewood Church, Nashville, will hold a groundbreaking ceremony June 28.

■ A team of eight members of First Church, South Pittsburg, will serve in Chile Aug. 28 - Sept. 8.

■ A team of 29 youth and six leaders from First Church, Jackson, served June 14-20 in Wentzville, Mo. They led Vacation Bible Schools.

■ Volunteers from Campers on Missions and from Mt. Carmel Church, Cleveland, and First Church, Selmer, recently did renovation work at Camp Linden, Linden, reported Tommy Strong of the camp. The volunteers cleaned and painted the pool, worked on many different buildings, installed guardrail posts, and donated seven picnic tables.

■ First Church, Donelson, will present "God Save America," June 27-28. Call the church at (615) 883-2339 for more information.



ATTENDING activities recently at its East Campus are members of Leawood Church, Memphis. Over 500 people gathered there for a picnic and worship service under a tent. Sometime early next year a satellite worship service may begin meeting near the property.

■ **Goodsprings Church, Etowah**, is holding Vacation Bible School June 21-26 from 6:30-9 p.m. It will be based on the theme, "StarQuest: A Galactic Good News Adventure." For more information, call the church at (423) 263-9802.

■ **Alice Bell Church, Knoxville**, will present its third annual "God and Country Day" service June 28 at 10:45 a.m. Congressman John Duncan Jr. will speak and the church's choir and members of the Knoxville Symphony will perform.

■ **First Church, Gruetli-Laager**, celebrated its 50th anniversary June 14. George Johnson and The Keysmen were featured guests.

associations

■ **Concord Association** will hold its first annual youth camp at Camp Linden, Linden, July 10-12. For more information, contact the association at (615) 890-6409.

■ **Knox County Association** will be hosting about 325 youth and adults participating in World Changers/World Tour July 25 - Aug. 1. They will be renovating homes there.

■ **Sweetwater Association's** new Scholarship Committee awarded nine scholarships to young people who plan to attend college.

people

■ **Faye Sims**, office manager, Ball Camp Church, Knoxville, was recently honored for her 10 years of service there.

■ **Leigh Rutledge**, member, Pioneer Community Church, McMinnville, will serve in India July 3-18. She will use drama in her efforts.

■ **Gene Hughett**, member, Hillcrest Church, Morristown,



A MISSIONS TEAM of 24 from Woodbine Church, Nashville, who worked May 30 - June 4 with Mississippi River Ministry, pause during their effort. The team served inner city residents of Memphis by assisting Westhaven Church here. Team members helped lead a tent revival, two Backyard Bible Clubs, conducted a survey of the community, and did several tasks. The effort was coordinated by Kirby Woods Church, Memphis, and Don Whatley, minister of missions, Woodbine Church.

was honored June 21 for 28 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School.

■ **First Church, Murfreesboro**, ordained **Frankie Bowling** to the ministry May 31.

■ **Laurie Lynn**, member, First Church, Whitwell, served in Costa Rica June 11-15 to support the Tennessee/Costa Rica Baptist Partnership.

■ **Kathleen Hill**, pianist, South Knoxville Church, Knoxville, recently was honored for serving 40 years in that role at the church.

leaders

■ **Mt. Olivet Church, Mt. Juliet**, recently honored **Jim McAfee**, pastor, for earning his doctor of ministry degree from Drew University, Madison, N.J. His doctoral project considered ways to minister to people infected with AIDS/HIV and their families. McAfee also was honored for his seven years of service to the church.



MC AFE

■ **Paul Medley**, pastor, and **John Pinnix**, member, First Church, Jasper, will serve in Rio de Janeiro Sept. 27 - Oct. 6 to support the Tennessee/Rio de Janeiro Baptist Partnership.

■ **Stacy Michael**, missionary to Indonesia, will be welcomed home June 28 at Mt. Calvary Church, Whitwell. The event will begin at 2:30 p.m.

■ **Charles McKnight**, pastor, Mt. Pleasant Church, Rockvale, will retire June 30.

■ **First Church, Dunlap**, has called **Amy Martin** of Jasper as youth minister.

■ **Brush Creek Church**,

has called **Robert Amason**, interim pastor, as pastor, effective June 7. Formerly he was pastor of Emmanuel Church, Crossville.

■ **John Joiner** will celebrate his ninth anniversary of service as minister of music, Tusculum Hills Church, July 1.

■ **First Church, Clarksville**, has called **Glenn Metts** as single adults ministry assistant.

■ **Mooreland Heights Church, Knoxville**, has called **Ernie Sands** as pastor. He will be ordained June 28 at Trinity Church, Seymour.

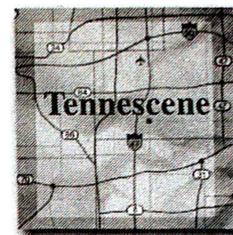
■ **Stephanie Culp** has



WINNERS in the Shelby/West State Regional Children's Bible Drill were April and Alan Doty, cousins and members of Leawood Church, Memphis. April, 11, won state superior and Alan, 9, earned state winner. The final competition for this age group is held in regions across the state.



THESE MUSICIANS from First Church, Martin, served a week recently at Mt. Carmel Church, Flint, Mich., to support the Tennessee/Michigan Baptist Partnership. They worked at a Baptist center in Detroit and performed music and drama nine times at various sites. The group is made up of mostly college students and is led by Elwood Doss Jr., minister of music/senior adults. Several people made spiritual decisions as a result of the efforts.



been called as children's director, North Knoxville Church, Knoxville, effective July 12.

■ **Ararat Church, Jackson**, has called **Sam Young** as its part-time truck stop chaplain serving at Wilhite's Travel Center in Denmark. He will lead a Sunday morning worship service, four Bible studies, and do personal evangelism and counseling.

■ **Hillcrest Church, Lebanon**, has called **Marty Dodge** as associate/youth pastor. He comes from First Church, Minor Hill.

■ **Sue Byerly**, preschool/ kindergarten director, West Hills Church, Knoxville, for 25 years is retiring and was honored June 21 by the church.

death

■ **Jeffrey Michael Melton**, 22, son of Pastor and Mrs. Mike Melton, Friendship Church, Friendship, died recently. He was employed by Thermax in Dyersburg, and was a member of Friendship Church.

Self Centeredness

By Paul Medley

Focal Passage — Philippians 2:19-24; James 3:13-16; I John 2:15-17

It is very easy to become self-centered. At the age of two the doctors at Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, La., diagnosed me as having meningitis. This dreaded disease killed nine out of 10 children in the early 1950s. I was fortunate to survive with only a speech impediment. Several years later my family moved to Bastrop, La., where I began school and 13 years of speech lessons. Today it is difficult to tell that I have ever had a speech problem.

I could tell you about the wonderful doctors that treated me, or about the dear, sweet lady that patiently worked with me through those years of speech lessons. But, I would rather tell you about the Lord Jesus who used those folks to heal me and prepare me for ministry. It is my desire to draw attention only to Jesus.

The center of the Christian world should be Jesus. John seeks for us to know this in his writing of I John 2:15-17. His use of the word "world" is in reference to our worldly perspective on life. He is dealing with our priorities. To love the world, or worldly pleasures, is to put self gratification ahead of God in our lives.

The Christian's first priority is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind. But this is not possible if we have a love for the world, or worldly pleasures. It boils down to the teaching of Jesus about serving two masters. You will either hate the one and love the other, or hate the other and love the one. You cannot serve the world and serve God at the same time. You cannot love the world and love God at the same time.



MEDLEY

James tells us that self-centeredness results in confusion and evil work. Anytime we center our thoughts on our own desires and wishes we develop a distorted view of the will of God. This in turn leads to confusion about what God wants for our lives. This distortion turns our sweet spirit into bitterness. It changes our direction from God-ward to in-ward. It will turn the humblest Christian into a boasting buffoon. And ultimately, this distortion will lead from truth to lying. And the picture this presents is of one lacking wisdom.

Some of the humblest people that I have met have been our foreign missionaries. They exemplify James' teaching in chapter 3, verse 13, "... show out of a good conversation his works with meekness. ..." They are the example that we need to follow. To serve on a mission field these individuals have given up much of their worldly possessions, some even to the point of poverty. On the mission field every word they speak and every action they take is weighed against the claim of Christ they proclaim. Yet, these men and women serve to the honor and glory of God.

These missionaries may well be compared to Paul's description of Timothy in Philippians 2:19-24. The unselfish are to be like minded with Jesus. They are to display a genuine concern for the welfare and needs of others. And they are to have a good reputation. Timothy's unselfish devotion to God and his ministry to Paul made him this example.

The attitude of the church today should be that of unselfishness. Christians should be seeking out ways to serve the Lord in our community and around the world. — Medley is pastor, First Church, Jasper.

Questions and response

By Richard Skidmore

Focal Passage — Job 38:1-7; 42:1-6, 10

"... he that cometh to God must believe that ... he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Apparently it will not always be evident in earthly life's circumstances that God is rewarding those who are diligently seeking him. This is something to believe, to be hoped for, not seen.

Job, even more his friends, seemed bewildered by his condition. They knew of no reason for the righteous to suffer except as just punishment for some sin. Job knew of no sin that had caused such calamity as he experienced. He pled for a reason, an audience, for justice. His case does not stand alone in the Scriptures.

Family Bible Lesson

Psalm 73 is a frank confession of one who struggled with similar questions as Job. The wicked prospered, railed against heaven, seemingly suffered no greater in life or at death than the righteous. Meanwhile, the righteous had no apparent advantage. Often, they were persecuted, tragedy befell them. It appeared that God did not know and/or care.

Hundreds of years later, the disciples of Jesus gathered following the death of their master. When asked to believe the miracle account given by others, Thomas' response seemed very similar to that of Job (John 20:25).

Job was given an audience. God quickly pointed out to

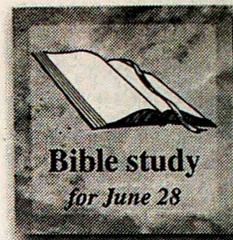
him that the complexity of the creation was in the hands of the Lord. He reminded Job that his counsel was not needed at the foundations of the universe. God alone was and remained infinite. His wisdom, his thoughts, his ways are above ours. Job, like us, was called upon to walk by faith, not by sight.

The Psalmist realized the short sighted nature of his complaint. How valuable it was to him to go to the place of worship, to turn his attention to the eternal in light of his temporal misgivings (Psalm 73:17).

Thomas was chided by the risen Christ for his lack of faith. A word of commendation is given by Jesus to those who would not have the physical hearing and touching experience of Thomas (John 20:19).

If someone of Job's integrity could falter in his trust, we need not consider ourselves invincible.

When we question, when we want an immediate response to our complaint, when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, may he help us to remember that we do now see through a glass darkly, we know in part. There is coming that day when we shall know fully, see fully. May he help us like Job and the Psalmist to confess our doubting and questioning as shortcoming. May he call us again to the hall of the faithful in Hebrews 11. May he increase our faith and help our unbelief. May he remind us continually that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. — Skidmore is director of missions, Weakley Association, Dresden.



SKIDMORE

Being a Christian in a hostile world

By Jim Powers

Focal Passage — I Peter 2:13-25

In this lesson, Peter is getting more specific in ways Christians should behave themselves.

In verse 13 he forcefully encourages us to submit voluntarily to the governing authorities. The implication in verses 13-14 is that Christians are to be submissive to all kinds of rules they might encounter.

Peter says the authority backing his governmental submission statement comes from God, the sovereign ruler of the universe. When non-Christians observe obedience to authority by Christians it will leave them speechless. The world needs to see Jesus in us.

The freedom Christians have in Christ should not be used as an excuse to do evil. All actions should be submitted to God, because he is our master. Our freedom is limited by our commitment to Jesus Christ.

In verse 17 Peter uses a simple phrase of uncomplicated terms to describe both man's vertical and horizontal relationships. True rever-

Explore the Bible Lesson

ence for God establishes a basis for our relationships with others. Honoring all people and loving all people is strengthened and even made possible because of our reverence for the heavenly Father. Everyone should be treated with love and respect.

Even though the task is hard Christians are to treat the most difficult employers with respect. Christians are to take their assigned tasks seriously.

When wrongful suffering comes as a result of one's faithfulness to God there are significant eternal rewards waiting for them. The harsh treatment we receive must not be deserved, it must be the result of

faithfulness. It is never appropriate to sin for the Christian regardless of the situation.

Part of the Christian's privilege is the opportunity to suffer for Christ's glory and honor. All Christians can follow Christ's example of how to deal with unjust treatment.

Several outstanding comments are made concerning Jesus' life on earth. Note these qualities about Jesus: committed no sin — yet suffered; not deceitful — yet lied about; loved all people — yet hated; not a criminal — yet sentenced to death. Jesus bore our sins and because of his sacrifice all can be forgiven. His stripes healed us from the wound of sin.

This closing verse gives two names for Jesus, shepherd and overseer. The shepherd wisely and lovingly provides for all our needs. As overseer, Christ is our guardian, protector, and our shield. Jesus alone, is qualified to fill the roles of shepherd and overseer for the sheep. — Powers is director of missions, Concord Association, Murfreesboro.



POWERS

Tell others about the good things Tennessee Baptists are doing.

Subscribe today for a friend!

Call (615) 371-2003 to begin a one-year subscription for a friend for only \$8. We will send a card announcing your gift.

Honor God

By Paul Medley

Focal Passage — Philippians 2:1-5; 4:2-9

Ridiculed in Nazareth, Jesus carried on. Hounded by Herod's heavies, Jesus carried on. Arrested, scourged, beaten, and bruised, Jesus carried on. Hanging in the hot, humid air, Jesus carried on. Despite the pain, the predicament, the people, Jesus carried on. In all that he did, Jesus honored God through his earthly visit. Conflict nor confrontation yielded his will, Jesus carried on.

This week's focal passage deals with honoring God through the conflicts of life. Please remember that the passages in Philippians have been written to believers. They are the ones that are not like-minded, that lack the same love, and are not of one accord. Are they horrible? No. Are they evil? No. They are just like you and me.

The Philippians are individuals seeking to be one in Christ. Individuals with their own personalities, problems, and pain. And it is this individuality that causes us to respond differently to the claim of Christ in our lives. It is this same individuality that allows Christ to be our personal Lord and Savior.

There is a time when individuality ceases. The time when what we have in common so grips our lives that we become as one. That time occurs when Christ is magnified through our lives. Individuality ends when we become concerned about the welfare and spiritual conditions of others. We all remember the account Jesus told of the Good Samaritan. He was the one that saw the Jewish man in need and broke racial and social barriers to help him. The Good Samaritan went beyond that call for immediate assistance and provided for the injured man's needs until he was healed.

From one that did not know Christ comes the loving example of Christianity. Jesus provides for our immediate needs spiritually and makes provision for us eternally. Christ-likeness is revealed in how we treat others. And when we treat others as Christ did, then we will be like-minded; we will have fellowship of the Spirit; and we will abound in love one for another. Or, in short, we will honor God.

Like-mindedness and service cause true rejoicing in Christ Jesus. Paul tells his readers to "Rejoice in the Lord, always." This is more than the thanking of God for the near misses of life or the recognition of God during the turmoil of life. Paul is saying that at all times, in every situation, to rejoice in the Lord.

Can you imagine in the middle of a fierce argument one person blurring out loud to the other, "Praise the Lord"? Sounds ridiculous doesn't it? But it follows the logic of always. Jesus said, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Maybe Paul was remembering the sweet sight of Stephen's smile at his stoning. Maybe he was remembering those whom he persecuted and their response to conflict. Whatever the case, Paul knew that to honor God we were to rejoice in the Lord always.

This lesson closes with the admonition to think. Paul has been dwelling on the things of the heart that can be expressed through the mind. He again wants us to realize that to honor God is to fill our thoughts with the thoughts of God. Our prayers, our petitions, our thoughts all combine to bring the peace and fellowship of God to ourselves and those around us.

When we, as Christians, think on the things of God and seek to honor him in our lives, then we can carry on. — Medley is pastor, First Church, Jasper.

Listen to wisdom

By Richard Skidmore

Focal Passage — Proverbs 2:1-15

Our granddaughters are still preschoolers, but Grandma and I are already concerned about their lives being fulfilling. We think about what our heritage to them will be, what we can do in our remaining years to pass along the joys and lessons of life that God has allowed us.

In the Scriptures, the fundamental place of teaching is the home. From the commandments of Moses in Deuteronomy 6:7 that the people of Israel were to teach their children diligently to the "My son ..." of Proverbs 2:1 (which occurs often in the book) to the injunction of Ephesians 6:1 to fathers that they bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, the Bible gives the primary responsibility for instruction of children to their parents. Home is that place where children should be most loved, best understood, safest, disciplined, instructed. As one reads the wisdom of Proverbs, desire is rekindled to mentor our children and our children's children.

Family Bible Lesson

Proverbs 2:1-4 is the plea of a father to his son to desire and search for wisdom. Life will at times seem most confusing. The listener is encouraged to make the choice of desiring wisdom, a choice that leads not only to an appetite for wisdom but also the application of one's time and faculties to acquire the same. Wonderful promises are made if the call is accepted.

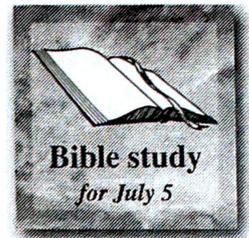
Wisdom will flow from the "... fear of the Lord ..." (ch. 2:5). How much akin this seems to the conclusion of Ec-

clesiastes 12:13. The fear of the Lord described here is not dread or fright, rather the reverence, awe, worshipful attitude one should have toward him. From this fountainhead will come knowledge, understanding, sound wisdom

Proverbs 2:9-15 seems to contrast the difference in lifestyle of those who have come with reverence to the Lord and thus begun to walk with wisdom and understanding with those who have rejected or neglected this cornerstone of life. The one having chosen the life of discipleship will have understanding of righteousness (v. 9) which seems to be the discernment of right and wrong. Through God's revelation and the illumination of his Spirit, we can make right choices. Such choices bring joy (v. 10) and preservation from the results of bad decisions (v. 11).

Verses 13-15 describe those who choose to follow their own selfish way. The path described for such people is a downward spiral. It goes from a choice of darkness to self-gratification of one's evil choices, to seeking others of like mind, to planning more twisted paths to follow.

Early in ministry, before our second daughter was born, Dr. W.E. Denham explained to me a great principle that has affected the rearing of my children and my preaching ministry equally. He taught me what it means when a child says, "wait" to a parent. It most often means, "no, not now." I have met very few people who indicated a deliberate, lifetime choice of destructive behavior, evil choices, unbelief. Myriad are the numbers who have said, "Later ..., some other time ..., a more convenient season ..., wait." The parent of Proverbs 2 pleads with his child, "Embrace wisdom, NOW." — Skidmore is director of missions, Weakley Association, Dresden.



Being Christian at home

By Jim Powers

Focal Passage — 1 Peter 3:1-12

Peter moves his emphasis from the government and the workplace to the home. More than anywhere else the real person living in each Christian shows up at home.

Husbands without Christ as their savior do not need preaching wives but wives that willingly place themselves under the guidance of their husbands. A wife may win her husband with Christ-like beauty in her daily walk.

Reverence for God coupled with moral living are qualities of a godly wife.

If we Christians spent as much time adorning our inner appearance as we do our outer appearance there would be more truly beautiful people in the world.

Hidden beauty features a quiet and gently spirit. These qualities are very precious to God. Inner beauty, unlike physical beauty which can be enhanced with make-up, jewelry, and clothing, does not decay.

The principles of godly marital relations do not develop as a result of being afraid of the husband. These principles develop as the result of the godly wife willingly submitting to the guidance of the husband. Sarah was not worshiping Abraham but rather followed him

Explore the Bible Lesson

out of respect.

Peter addresses the role of a Christian husband in the home. Husbands are to be intimately sensitive to the wives who are generally physically weaker. There is never a time when a larger, stronger husband should physically or verbally abuse his wife. In God's sight abusive actions toward the wife are sin. Honor should be given the wife because together the Christian husband and Christian wife will be heirs of the "grace of life." They are equals in spiritual matters. A Christian husband's spiritual relationship with God will be directly affected by the way he treats his wife.

After exhorting Christians in their relationship with the government and in the home, Peter speaks concerning our relationship in the fellowship of believers. Verses 8-12 apply to all Christians. In the Christian fellowship we are to be like-minded. To love with brotherly love, and to return good instead of evil. Blessing those who curse you is Jesus' way. When we bless, we will inherit at the hand of God, blessings. Suffering in Christ's name is always rewarded.

Believers must not use evil

speech or tell lies. They must be avoided so we Christians can live a good life. The goal of Christ's followers must be peace. Peace is to be pursued like an Olympic player would pursue the gold medal.

The Lord God Jehovah knows everything. He looks favorably upon the righteous and hears their prayers. In contrast Father God turns away from evil doers. Sin repulses God. — Powers is director of missions, Concord Association, Murfreesboro.

THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER & OF THE SON & OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ...

MATTHEW 28:19



Lance to lead Alabama Baptists

Baptist Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama pastor Rick Lance, 47, will be elected executive secretary-elect of the Alabama Baptist State Convention by the convention's state board of missions at a June 16 meeting here.

Lance, pastor of First Church, Tuscaloosa since 1983, will succeed Troy Morrison, the convention's executive secretary since 1990, who has announced his retirement, effective Jan. 31, 1999.

Lance was the convention's 1990-92 president and has served in other roles in the state. He also has been a trustee of the SBC Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board). He will begin work alongside Morrison July 15 and assume the executive secretary's post Feb. 1, 1999.

Lance is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. ■

Waco church calls woman pastor

Baptist Press

WACO, Texas — Calvary Church here has called Julie Pennington-Russell as pastor in a 190-73 vote.

Pennington-Russell, 37, is believed to be the first female senior pastor of a church affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. She has been pastor of Nineteenth Avenue Church, San Francisco, since 1993 and was its associate pastor from 1984-93.

About 75 women now serve Southern Baptist churches as pastors, said Sarah Frances Anders, an emeritus professor at Louisiana College who has kept tabs on women in ministry for about 40 years. ■

Texas state paper names Knox editor

Baptist Press

DALLAS — The Baptist Standard board of directors June 1 unanimously elected Marv Knox to succeed Toby Druin as editor of the Texas

Baptist weekly newsjournal following Druin's retirement on Dec. 31.

Knox, 41, has been associate editor of the Standard since 1995. He will be the paper's 13th editor.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Knox is former editor of Kentucky's *Western Recorder*. He also has been an editor at Baptist Press in Nashville and associate editor of Louisiana's *Baptist Message*.

Knox and his wife, Joanna, have two daughters. ■

Name changed for church insurer

Baptist Press

DALLAS — Preferred Risk, the property and casualty insurance carrier endorsed by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, changed its name to The Guidant Insurance Group in May. Coverages and rates will not be affected as a result of the name change.

The Annuity Board first endorsed Preferred Risk in 1991 and now more than 6,600 Southern Baptist churches and institutions have coverage through the company. ■

Hunger funds bring hope in Niger

Baptist Press

NIAMEY, Niger — Pained by the desperation of hunger around them, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries in Niger have begun distributing food — and the love of Jesus — to starving people in the West African country.

Because of drought, last year's harvest was the worst in the past 15 years. "Daily, we are confronted with starving people, and we have done our best with the resources we have, but we have watched as both children and adults die," said missionary Brad Womble.

Partly because of increased giving to Southern Baptists' World Hunger Fund this year, \$135,450 was released in May for Zarma people living in rural areas around three villages and \$337,500 was released in June for nearly 100,000 Hausa Muslims.

At \$3.2 million, World Hunger Fund receipts through May were nearly 30 percent more than at the same time last year.

"Southern Baptists are a caring people, and they want to respond," said Bill Cashion, human needs consultant for the IMB.

"They want to give the bread, but they want to give the Bread of Life, too." ■

National educator challenges Union grads

By Nedra Kanavel
For Baptist and Reflector

JACKSON — Robert Andringa, president of the Coalition for Christian Colleges and Universities, challenged Union University graduates recently to answer the question, "Is your mind in love with God?"

With two decades of experience in higher education on the national level, Andringa expounded on the value of "thinking Christianly" in a world where intellect and faith are commonly kept apart.

"The life of the mind and the life of the spirit are meant to be in harmony, mutually reinforcing one another," Andringa asserted during his commencement address. "On most campuses, the mind is honored, but not the Creator of the mind," he said.

Achieving that harmony can and should be the ultimate goal of Christian higher education, Andringa emphasized. To love God completely, Andringa explained, one must "accept study and the pursuit of truth as central to our high calling in life by our Creator

who gave us minds to use to his glory."

Andringa encouraged Union's 1998 graduates to become perpetual learners, and as they do so to employ the freedom their faith gives them to explore and discover knowledge, recognizing God is the Creator of all knowledge.

"That freedom must allow us to ask the tough questions, to doubt, to seek without always believing we must have the answers," Andringa said.

There were 336 students in Union University's graduating class. ■

Reynolds retires at Southwestern

Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — William J. Reynolds has shaped notes as a composer, arranger, conductor, and administrator and, for 18 years, the lives of innumerable students as distinguished professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Reynolds retired from the seminary following the spring semester.

"Few people have had the breadth and depth of impact on Southern Baptist church music as William J. Reynolds," said Scotty Gray, Southwestern's vice president for academic administration.

Reynolds was chairman of the hymnal committee and general editor of the *Baptist Hymnal*, 1975, and general editor of *The New Broadman Hymnal*, 1977. He served with the church music department of the former Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) for 25 years.

He plans to further his research in retirement and will be an adjunct teacher during 1998-99. ■

LifeWay announces new web address

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE — Internet users can add a new bookmark to their favorite places folder now that the Sunday School Board is named LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The web site address has changed from www.bssb.com to www.lifeway.com.

In addition to the regular features on the web site, beginning July 1 the site will offer LifeWay Christian Stores Online. Visitors to the site will

have on-line ordering access to Bibles, books, music, supplies, videos, reference materials, and other resources for pastors, church staff, and teachers. ■

Nearly 300 accept Christ during Hispanic crusade

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Nearly 300 individuals accepted Christ during the June 12-14 Hispanic crusade that wrapped up Crossover Salt Lake City, Southern Baptists' evangelistic effort surrounding the convention's 1998 annual meeting.

The strong response brought the total number of Hispanics accepting Christ during the entire Crossover campaign to about 750, said Enio Agüero, of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention. "That's basically almost 44 percent" of the total 1,713 professions of faith recording during Crossover, he said. ■

Patterson projects SBC baptisms goal

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Newly-elected Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson expects to be preoccupied with a goal of a million people being baptized in the year 2000 through Southern Baptist evangelistic efforts at home and abroad.

"We've had 20 years of controversy that I happen to believe was essential. That's all behind us now," Patterson said. "What is before us now is to unify our hearts and minds on one objective — being faithful to that which Christ asks us to do."

Whether the nearly 16 million members of the Southern Baptist Convention feel good

about his election probably depends on whether they share his vision of leading a far greater number of faith in Christ," he said.

"If people are enthusiastic about missions and evangelism, they're probably going to feel good about this," Patterson

said. "If not, then they'd probably rather have someone else."

As to whether there will be efforts to reach out to moderate Southern Baptists who have criticized the conservative resurgence, Patterson said, "Those with serious questions about the validity and veracity of certain portions of the Word and who do not have a deep commitment to missions are going to be less happy with the Southern Baptist Convention of the 21st century." ■

Nevada editor accepts new post

Baptist Press

FRESNO, Calif. — Michael B. McCullough, a 16-year employee of the Nevada Baptist Convention, became associate executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention June 1.

He succeeds Wendell J. Foss, who retired last September after 35 years on staff.

McCullough, 46, has been editor of *The Nevada Baptist* since 1983 and is the immediate past president of the Association of State Baptist Papers. Additionally, McCullough has served as assistant executive director of the Nevada convention since 1985.

In his new post, McCullough will serve as the California convention's staff planning officer with responsibility for coordinating the budget and calendar preparation. ■



PATTERSON